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TODAY: **STYLE**

OPEC to Meet In Crisis Mode As Oil Prices Keep Dropping

By Agis Salpukas
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The lowest oil prices in years have created a severe crisis for oil-producing countries both inside and outside OPEC, and they have been struggling to reverse the decline.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has found itself increasingly impotent in the oil market, and as its 11 member nations prepare to meet in Vienna on Wednesday, a new, loosely structured coalition has emerged. It is led by such big OPEC members as Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, as well as such non-OPEC giants as Mexico and Norway.

Whether such a coalition can turn prices around remains open to question, however. The production cutbacks that these countries and others made this spring fell far short of the amounts pledged, and oil prices, which initially jumped, ultimately gave back all their gains.

For the 11 OPEC members, the dimension of the crisis can be summed up in one simple statistic: their collective income from oil has fallen so far this year by a full third, or the equivalent of \$45 billion. And there is no apparent end in sight as the collapse of several Asian economies has diminished demand for oil in what used to be the fastest growing energy-consuming market in the world.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, has quietly borrowed some \$2 billion from its domestic banks in the last month to meet public expenses as it discreetly prepares to reduce its budget by at least 10 percent and raise indirect taxes across the board on services — all to offset the most serious fall in oil revenues in a decade.

Elsewhere, there have been warnings of social unrest unless producers drastically cut their oil production to raise prices. A hint of things to come may be seen in Yemen, one of the world's smallest oil producers. Since Saturday, several cities have exploded in riots as thousands protest a cut in subsidies for bread and fuel imposed by the government as it struggles to compensate for lost income from oil exports.

Some oil industry analysts say that the coordinated production cutbacks announced this spring have kept prices from falling even lower. Moreover, a second round of cuts has been announced for July.

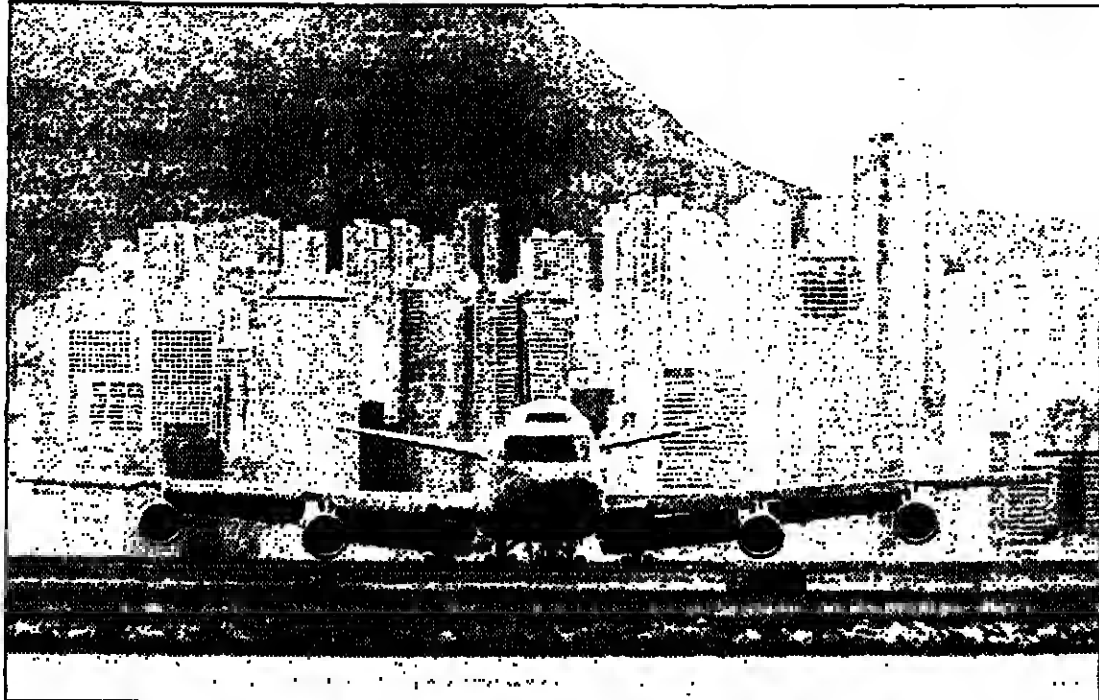
Others, however, dismiss the current effort as doomed in the face of compelling market factors, such as the slowdown in Asia, the rise in energy conservation and the development of technology that has made the discovery and extraction of oil far more efficient.

In any case, after many years of widespread cheating on production quotas by its members, the once-mighty OPEC has become virtually powerless in influencing the oil market by itself.

Prices have plunged more than 48 percent from a 52-week high of about \$23 a barrel in October, reaching below \$12 in the last week. On Monday, however, a barrel of sweet crude for July delivery was being quoted in late New York trading at \$13.62, up \$1.76.

This may be the end of the old OPEC, but a wider organization may take its place that may be more effective, said John Liebhaf, the chair-

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A plane taxiing to the terminal after landing at Hong Kong's Kai Tak Airport as the city looms in the background. Kai Tak is scheduled to close July 6, when Chek Lap Kok will open.

Jiang Has His Eye on History

China's Leader Appears to Stake Legacy on Strong U.S. Ties

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — In a documentary broadcast nationwide on China's main state-run channel, President Jiang Zemin was shown bobbing in the surf last October off Waikiki Beach in Hawaii.

While Mao Zedong, Communist China's "great helmsman," swam in the Yellow River and his successor, Deng Xiaoping, bathed in the Gulf of Bo Hai, the narrator intoned solemnly, Mr. Jiang frolicked in the wide-open waters of the Pacific Ocean. "Isn't this a sign of China's openness and historical change?"

As the first visit of an American president to China in nine years approaches, Mr. Jiang, like his counterpart, Bill Clinton, is thinking about his place in history.

While Mao united China and Deng opened it to the outside world, President Jiang appears to have staked

his legacy on building a stable and strong relationship with the United States.

For now, his ambitions conflict with the reality of a complex and often fractious relationship with Washington. On issues such as Taiwan, trade, security and human rights, the two countries remain far apart, American and Chinese analysts say.

As a result, "Clinton's trip is extremely important for Jiang," said David Shambaugh, the director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies at George Washington University. "In the end, the Clinton visit is much more about symbolism than substance and the symbols definitely bolster Jiang at home and abroad" by casting him as Mr. Clinton's partner in spite of the bilateral differences.

Late last year, Mr. Jiang took over the top position on the Communist Party's foreign-affairs working

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Viorol Moldovan after scoring the first goal in Romania's 2-1 victory over England on Monday in Toulouse. Page 25.

After Flowers And a Photo, Iran Has Night To Remember

By Jere Longman
New York Times Service

LYON — The Iranian players shook hands with the Americans, handed them white flowers symbolizing peace and even posed together for a team picture. But friendship extended only so far. There was a soccer game to win, and not only did Iran prevail, 2-1, but this historic victory knocked the United States out of contention in the World Cup.

This was the first time that Iran and the United States had met in soccer and the first time that Iran ever won a game in two trips to the World Cup. The countries exchanged visits by their Olympic-style wrestling teams this year, and have participated in the Summer Games, but this was the most visible head-to-head sporting event between the two countries since the Islamic revolution in 1979.

In victory on Sunday night, Iranian players said it was significant to have defeated the Americans, and not necessarily for political reasons.

"I think it is important after 20 years of situations to show that the things said about Iranians are not true," said Iran's goalkeeper, Ahmadrza Abedzadeh. "We were courageous and we played fair. That is very important."

Both teams seemed to go out of their way to show that they could be courteous and friendly even if their governments could not. The only demonstration was a vigorous but peaceful protest against Iran's Islamic regime,

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Nigeria's Military: Looking for an Exit?

Contacts With Opposition Are Reported on a Safe Way to Leave Power

By James Rupert
Washington Post Service

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Two weeks after the death of Nigeria's leader, General Sani Abacha, the military government is opening contacts with opposition figures as a start to an apparent search for a safe way to leave power, Nigerian political sources said.

In the most important such contact, members of the military's ruling council have been negotiating since last Tuesday with their most prominent opponent, Moshood Abiola, said a government source quoted by Reuters news agency.

Mr. Abiola, the evident winner of Nigeria's 1993 presidential election, has been jailed by the military for four years for claiming the right to rule.

The efforts at dialogue under the new military leader, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, appear to represent the first hope in months for reducing political tensions around the broad, popular demand in Nigeria that the army give up

power. But "the military is moving quite gradually and by piecemeal action," said Isawa Elaigwu, a political scientist at the University of Jos.

Mr. Elaigwu and other analysts said it was uncertain how far the military might ultimately move toward demands from within Nigeria and from other nations — including the United States — that it hand power soon to a civilian government.

In particular, it is unclear whether the armed forces, who are dominated by northerners, and the country's vigorous pro-democracy movement, led by southerners, might overcome years of bitter feuding to find grounds for compromise.

Several analysts said top officers have suggested that General Abubakar

may lay out a fuller position after official mourning for General Abacha ends July 7.

Generals have ruled independent Nigeria for 28 of its 38 years, and nearly every one has broken solemn vows to cede power to elected government. This has left many Nigerians cynical about reports that the military plans to leave power.

Before he died June 8, reportedly of a heart attack, General Abacha was pursuing a supposed transition to an elected government in which he was the only legal candidate to become the civilian president.

But unlike General Abacha, General Abubakar "has no political ambitions,"

North Korea Sub Is Snagged Off South

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — A North Korean midsize submarine was snared in the nets of a fishing boat in South Korean waters and was towed into port by the South Korean Navy on Monday in an incident that could complicate efforts to improve relations between the two Koreas.

The 70-ton submarine, with several North Korean sailors aboard, was snared 18 kilometers (11 miles) off the east coast port of Sokcho, about 33 kilometers south of the North Korean border, according to South Korean military sources.

Two years ago, a 325-ton North

Korean submarine ran aground some 50 kilometers to the south, leading to a breakdown in attempts to bring the two nations to the negotiating table.

The skipper of the South Korean fishing boat, Han Ki Chul, told South Korean reporters that "I saw one or two people working on the submarine," apparently North Koreans trying to free it from the net.

"The submarine was afloat," he said. "It was not sinking."

About five or six North Korean sailors were believed to be still inside the submarine as a South Korean corvette towed it to a navy base near Sokcho, said Colonel Park In Yong.

South Korean soldiers and sailors

were trying over loud speakers to persuade anyone inside to surrender.

North Korea uses a fleet of 50 small submarines similar to the one snagged Monday for espionage and infiltration.

The South Korean military has not officially verified the type, tonnage or other details.

After South Korean sailors had a chance to look at the submarine more closely as it was under tow, however, defense officials moved toward the view that it had not sailed south to land commandos or even to engage in espionage.

"The submarine was already con-

See KOREA, Page 8

Hong Kong Girds To Enter Recession

New Airport Puts Pressure On Economy

By Philip Segal
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — As a cure for a city in recession, Hong Kong's super-expensive new airport may not be what the doctor ordered.

With two weeks to go until the airport at Chek Lap Kok opens to the public on July 6, Hong Kong businesses are facing cargo bill increases of as much as 30 percent — part of the price for one of the world's most expensive public building projects.

A \$20 billion endeavor that includes the airport, tunnels and the world's longest suspension bridge needed to reach it, Chek Lap Kok is the world's second most expensive airport after Japan's Kansai International Airport, which like Chek Lap Kok is built on reclaimed land.

The problem with the new airport is timing. Even though Hong Kong's economy shrank by 2 percent in the first quarter of the year, buffeted by the Asian financial crisis, a city that prides itself on being an efficient cargo and transportation hub is getting ready to swallow increases of as much as 30 percent in handling fees for freight, and 20 percent for passenger-jet landing fees.

The International Air Transport Association, which had previously forecast annual expansion of air traffic in the Asia-Pacific region at 7.7 percent through 2010, has cut that estimate to 4.4 percent.

For many here, pride in having an airport that is a triumph of modern engineering is outweighed by the expense of the project.

"It's great to have a new airport in Hong Kong," said Jim Eckes, a Hong Kong aviation consultant and broker at Indoswiss Ltd. "It's just built in the wrong place, it cost too much money and it was built at the wrong time."

But next to what used to be a small island to the west of Hong Kong, the airport project begun in 1989 once employed one third of the world's dredging fleet.

A series of tunnels and bridges and a new rail line will run passengers out to the new terminal. The British government planned an expensive airport in part to demonstrate confidence in Hong Kong's future after the massacre near Tiananmen Square of 1989 led to panicked flights of people seeking passports from foreign consulates.

Now, an airport that might have cost \$4 billion had it been built on existing land in Hong Kong's New Territories has to be paid for with higher plane

Government To Halt Sales Of Property

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — Seeking to stop a frightening downward spiral in its property market, Hong Kong's government announced Monday that it would halt its sales of land until March as it officially confirmed for the first time that the territory was headed for recession.

The action, which was announced after the Hong Kong stock market closed, is the starkest sign yet of how deeply the Asian crisis is hurting the territory's normally resilient economy.

Property prices drive the broader stock market here, and the government is the highest single landowner, selling about half of Hong Kong's new residential property in public auctions. By trying to halt land sales, the government will effectively freeze real estate prices at current levels. The move amounts to a massive government intervention in Hong Kong's most important business.

"The Asian crisis has brought a lot of suffering and pain to Hong Kong people," said Tung Chee-hwa, the chief executive of Hong Kong. "We believe we are in a critical phase and, therefore, we have to be pragmatic."

Flanked by a grim-faced lineup of top Hong Kong officials, Mr. Tung announced a series of measures to restore consumer confidence and ease the deepening credit crunch in the territory. These include the lowering of import and export duties, a tax rebate, and a freeze in government salaries.

Still, Mr. Tung acknowledged that no amount of stimulus would pull Hong Kong out of what is fast becoming its worst downturn since World War II. Property prices have plunged 40 percent in the last six months, unemployment is at a 15-year high, and output declined by 2 percent in the first quarter.

Mr. Tung said Monday the economy would shrink again in the second quarter — the first official confirmation of a recession. Unless the government acted to stabilize property prices, he said, Hong Kong's banks would deteriorate and a crisis of confidence would overwhelm local financial markets.

But the government's aggressive intervention may stoke the fears of overseas investors, who value Hong Kong for its untrammeled markets.

Late Monday, some analysts were already questioning whether Hong Kong would continue linking its currency to the U.S. dollar at a fixed exchange rate.

Indeed, Hong Kong's stock market is already battling a crisis of confidence.

The benchmark Hang Seng index fell

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AGENDA

Havel Asks Center-Left to Form Cabinet

PRAGUE (Reuters) — The Czech president, Vaclav Havel, on Monday asked Milos Zeman, whose center-left Social Democrats won the weekend elections for a new Parliament, to try to form a government.

The opposition Czech Social Democratic Party won 32.3 percent of the popular vote.

Mr. Havel said that Mr. Zeman, who is expected to have difficulty forming a coalition after a surpris-

ingly strong showing by the right, had accepted his invitation to form a government.

The president met with leaders of four of the five parties that gained representation in the lower house — the Social Democrats, the Civic Democratic Party, the Christian Democrats and the Freedom Union.

Mr. Havel declined, however, to meet with officials from the fifth party, the Communist Party.



COLOMBIA POLL — Andres Pastrana, a former Bogotá mayor, was elected president. Page 8.

Defiance in Kosovo

As Serbian forces move up their heavy armor against them, rebels in the southern province of Kosovo, fighting to carve an independent state from one of the two republics that remain in Yugoslavia, have dug trenches around the villages they control and set up sandbagged roadblocks. They are talking heroically of fighting to the death. Page 14.

The Dollar			
	Monday @ 4 P.M.	previous close	
DM	1.794	1.788	
Yen	138.08	136.085	
FF	6.015	5.995	
Pound	1.6735	1.6748	
Dollars per pound			
The Dow			
	Monday close	percent change	
-1.74	8,711.13	-0.02%	
S&P 500			
+2.59	1,103.18	+0.24%	
Nasdaq			
+25.13	1,805.85	+1.41%	

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Great Britain	€ 0.90	Saudi Arabia	10 S.R.
Egypt	€ 5.50	S. Africa	R12 + VAT
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Kenya	K Sh. 180	U.S. (Eur.)	\$ 1.20
Kuwait	700 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zim\$40.00



New U.S.-China Ties Are the Fruit of '96 Shift in Policy



Mr. Clinton rejected the memo and directed Mr. Berger to work out a deal with China. Sandra Kristoff, the National Security Council's senior director for Asia, traveled hastily to Beijing. Her delegation pressed the deputy foreign minister, Yang Jiechi, to show enough progress to justify an end to the Geneva fight.

The first deal came on the C-801 and C-802 cruise missiles. Mrs. Albright met with Mr. Qian on Sept. 23 in New York and he told her there were "no plans" for further cruise missile sales. Mrs. Albright, according to an American ac-

As Mr. Qin stared back in disbelief, Mr. Richardson burst into a grin. The Chinese delegate threw his head back and laughed.

Mr. Nouri has also strongly supported Mr. Karbaschi and has openly criticized the chief of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammed Yazdi, for arresting the mayor in April without telling Mr. Nouri. After several thousand people demonstrated in favor of the mayor, he

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971).

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HATM

THE AMERICAS

Clinton Squeezes Cigarette Makers

After Defeat in Congress, He Orders Annual Check on Underage Use

By John F. Harris
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton announced Monday that the federal government would begin conducting annual surveys to determine cigarette-brand share in the market for underage smokers — a defiant gesture aimed at tobacco companies and their supporters in Congress.

Recoiling from the collapse of comprehensive anti-smoking legislation in the Senate, Mr. Clinton issued an executive order directing the Department of Health and Human Services to begin documenting which brands enjoy favor among smokers between the ages of 12 through 17, as part of the yearly National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

The tobacco bill, which stalled after failing to win the necessary 60 votes to end debate, would have called for such research into the youth smoking market. In one of its more controversial provisions, the bill also would have imposed large financial penalties on cigarette companies that did not reduce their sales to youngsters by 30 percent over five years, and 60 percent over a decade.

Those penalties, which provoked vociferous objections from the tobacco

companies, cannot be imposed now that the legislation is dead. Moreover, they were likely targets for a challenge on constitutional grounds if the bill had passed.

But Mr. Clinton's aides said there was logic behind performing the market research anyway.

President Clinton, they said, has two objectives. The first is to project a public message of optimism. Mr. Clinton insists there is a chance that comprehensive tobacco legislation will pass later this year, and that it makes sense to get a head start on brand surveys that will be needed to monitor the cigarette companies' performance in reducing sales to minors.

But even if the legislation never becomes law, administration officials said, the surveys will be a useful way to put public opinion pressure on the companies.

"For the first time, we'll have clear evidence of which companies are responsible for this problem," said an administration official who works on the tobacco issue. "We'll be able to see which companies are targeting youth."

A tobacco industry spokesman, Scott Williams, said cigarette companies had agreed to support general research into the reasons for youth smoking. But he added that the industry objected to per-

forming brand surveys or imposing fees on individual companies.

He dismissed President Clinton's plan as a "political gesture" aimed at stigmatizing tobacco and diverting attention from his inability to win passage of the tobacco legislation — his top domestic policy priority.

Mr. Williams said President Clinton was at fault for not exerting greater leadership to implement a settlement agreed to last June by state attorneys general and the major cigarette makers, after consultations with the White House.

Among several provisions of that agreement, cigarette companies reluctantly agreed to pay the government up to \$2 billion in annual "look-back" penalties if youth smoking did not decline enough. The fees would have been paid by the industry as a whole, without reference to which brands were popular among young people.

The failed bill, sponsored by Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, and amended at White House insistence, would have increased the maximum annual penalty to \$3.5 billion, and would have imposed additional penalties on companies that fell short.

These company-specific fees would have been \$1,000 per smoker for every smoker beyond the target.

Away From Politics

• Presale checks under the federal Brady law blocked the U.S. sale of some 69,000 handguns in 1997, more than half because the prospective buyer was a convicted felon or was under a felony indictment, the Justice Department said. This was 2.7 percent of the 2,574,000 U.S. applications. (AP)

• A National Park Service ranger was shot and killed as he checked out complaints that a man with a rifle was threatening visitors at a scenic overlook near Cherokee, North Carolina, about 60 miles southeast of Knoxville, Tennessee. The ranger was killed by a shot to the chest that pierced his protective vest. (AP)

• A rescue helicopter picked up two British climbers from Mount McKinley in Alaska, where they had been stranded without food in bitter cold for more than three days. They were hospitalized in good condition. (AP)

• Hundreds of firefighters battled wildfires in north Florida as scattered thunderstorms brought not only welcome rain but also lightning that triggered more than 80 new fires. (AP)

• Striking telephone workers clashed with riot police in a suburb of San Juan, Puerto Rico, injuring at least six people, three seriously. (AP)



Julie Thomas of St. Petersburg, Florida, placing flowers in Washington at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial near the name of her husband, James R. Thomas, listed as missing in action in Vietnam in 1971. She said it was "my first picnic with my husband in 27 years."

Supreme Court Strikes Down Fine

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For the first time in its history, the Supreme Court on Monday struck down a fine as unconstitutional.

The court ruled, 5 to 4, that the federal government cannot always seize and keep all the money people try to take outside the United States without filing the proper reports.

Rebuffing Clinton administration arguments, the court said a federal law that always subjects such money to forfeiture violates the constitution's ban on excessive fines.

A federal law requires that anyone who moves more than \$10,000 in cash or other "monetary instruments" out of the United States must report it to the Treasury Department. People who fail to do so can be sentenced to up to five years in prison and be fined a maximum of \$250,000.

The law also requires sentencing courts to order the unreported money forfeited.

Writing for the court, Justice Clarence Thomas said such a forfeiture amounts to a fine, and some forfeitures are so disproportionate to the offense that they violate the Eighth Amendment's ban on excessive fines.

The decision was a victory for a California gas station owner, who in 1994 tried to leave the country with \$357,000 in his and his wife's possession.

Hosep Krikor Bajakajian, who owns two service stations in Hollywood, was detained by U.S. Customs agents in Los Angeles on June 9, 1994, as he and his wife waited to board an airplane to Syria.

The agents, alerted by a currency-detecting dog, found \$357,000 in cash that Mr. Bajakajian had not reported. His lawyers said Mr. Bajakajian did not trust government authorities. He pleaded guilty to violating the reporting law and was sentenced to three years probation and fined \$5,000.

The federal judge who presided over Mr. Bajakajian's trial found that the money was not linked to illegal drugs or gambling, was not stolen and was not being laundered for tax evasion or any other reason.

The judge ordered that only \$15,000 of the unreported cash be forfeited, ruling that forcing Mr. Bajakajian to lose any more would be "grossly disproportionate" to his crime.

POLITICAL NOTES

Big Battle in New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico — The battle for control of Congress has started early here with a special election for an open seat in the House of Representatives, drawing Hillary Rodham Clinton and other top Democrats to energize voters.

Mrs. Clinton joined the House minority leader, Dick Gephardt of Missouri, and Representatives Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island and Loretta Sanchez of California at a campaign rally on Sunday for the millionaire Democratic nominee, Phil Maloof of Albuquerque.

He is in a tight race with the Republican candidate, Heather Wilson, a former air force officer and state agency administrator.

The two are vying in a special election Tuesday to replace Steve Schiff, a Republican who died in March. At stake is momentum for the November elections, with Democrats hoping to win back control of the House. If Mr. Maloof wins, the Republican margin in the House shrinks to 10. (AP)

Consultants Blame the Media

NEW YORK — As politicians moan about interminable fund-raising demands to pay for brutal attack commercials, consultants who run many of their campaigns and make many of the advertisements say that it is not their fault and suggest that if anyone is to blame for public despair about the system, it is the news media.

A survey of more than 200 political consultants made public by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press and the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University found that the consultants were driven more by the thrill of the competition than by ideology. And, by an overwhelming proportion, they believed that focusing on an opponent's weaknesses is perfectly acceptable.

This is the first time that so many leading consultants — most have been involved in major races over the last three election seasons — have been interviewed for one survey. While more than half of those surveyed blamed the media for discouraging people from running for office because news organizations dwell too much on the personal lives of candidates, many consultants made it clear that they were not impressed by their own candidates.

Most consultants emphasized the importance of their own roles and also criticized the public as poorly informed and lacking sound judgment about issues. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

President Bill Clinton, ordering the government to survey teenagers on which brands of cigarettes they smoke, as a way to hold tobacco companies accountable for "targeting children" with advertising: "Once this information becomes public, companies will then no longer be able to evade accountability, and neither will Congress." (AP)



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EUROPE

Steps to Halt Ozone Loss Are Working, Report Says

By Tom Bueckle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Global measures to reduce the production of ozone-depleting chemicals are proving effective, with concentrations of the chemicals expected to decline in the upper atmosphere after the year 2000, leading to a slow recovery of the ozone layer, international organizations announced Monday.

The report, released in Geneva by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Program, was the first assessment of ozone-protection measures in four years. It provided the best evidence to date that an agreement by developed countries to stop production of chlorofluorocarbons, the most-damaging group of chemicals, in 1995 was having an impact.

The rate of ozone loss in the stratosphere at the Earth's midlatitudes, where the world's populations are concentrated, has slowed in recent years, the report found.

The ozone depletion at midlatitudes in the Northern Hemisphere in winter and spring, for example, averaged 5.4 percent from 1994 to 1997, almost a third less than the depletion that meteorologists had projected four years ago.

The ozone layer is a protective shield of gas that absorbs harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. The holes are blamed for causing skin cancer and cataracts.

"The Montreal Protocol is working," the report stated, referring to the 1987 global agreement to limit production of ozone-depleting substances. "A full recovery of the Earth's protective ozone shield could occur by the middle of the next century, but it would require that the protocol is fully implemented," it said.

Klaus Toepfer, the executive director of the UN Environment Program, welcomed the findings but urged countries not to relax their efforts.

While most industrial countries are complying with the protocol, officials noted that developing countries have until 2005 to end chlorofluorocarbon production and the booming economies of China and India have lifted their emissions above earlier projections.

As a result, stratospheric concentrations of ozone-depleting chemicals are expected to peak around the year 2000 and then decline only at a slow rate, said Rumen Bjukov, special adviser to the World Meteorological Organization on ozone depletion.

Mr. Bjukov and the report also stressed that ozone recovery will be affected by general climate conditions and by compounds linked to global warming, such as nitrous oxide and methane.

As a result, the health of the ozone layer will depend on the willingness of countries to meet their targets for reducing global warming chemicals, agreed at a UN conference in Kyoto, Japan, last year.

Mr. Bjukov said it could take another 20 years before scientists have unambiguous evidence that the ozone layer is recovering.



Louise Woodward telling the BBC that she is innocent in the death.

Au Pair in Baby's Death Says She's a Scapegoat

The Associated Press

LONDON — In her first in-depth interview since she returned home from the United States last week, Louise Woodward said that she was made a scapegoat for the death of a baby in her care because the authorities had to find someone to blame.

"The mentality is that somebody has to pay," she told the British Broadcasting Corp. "You know, and that seemed to be the problem, that, well, if the parents didn't do it, who did? There's only you left."

Prosecutors in Massachusetts said that Miss Woodward, the au pair who was convicted of manslaughter, shook 8-month-old Matthew Eappen to death in February 1997. She has maintained her innocence.

The baby's family was not immediately available for comment.

But the attorney representing the Eappens in a civil suit against Miss Woodward said the young woman "already told her story and was found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt by a jury, a judge and seven justices of the Massachusetts Supreme Court."

"It is obvious she is now more interested in her celebrity status than

the truth," said the attorney, Fredric Ellis.

According to excerpts of the interview that were broadcast by the BBC, Miss Woodward said: "There was the whole feeling that somebody had to pay and that somebody had to be me. But like I say, you know, I didn't do anything wrong."

She was allowed to leave the United States after the Massachusetts high court upheld a lower court judge's decision in November to reduce her second-degree murder conviction to manslaughter and sentence her to the 279 days she had already spent in prison.

Miss Woodward, 20, said she was fortunate that her sentence was not longer.

But she added: "I think 279 days is a long time for an innocent person to serve."

"For when it's 279 days of agonizing, worry and pain, being torn away from your family, being locked up in a prison in a strange country — and please remember that I was 18 when I went into prison — and being scared, for something that you didn't even do."

A NATO No Longer Just for Defense Secretary-General Foresees a Growing Activist Role in Crises

By Joseph Fichtel
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — "What kind of world are we living in when people are demonstrating outside my windows at headquarters with placards saying 'NATO, save us'?" Secretary-General Javier Solana asked a visitor.

The people who were calling on NATO to help them were ethnic Albanians from Kosovo — the latest group to turn to NATO for membership or intervention.

Mr. Solana's question highlighted the dramatic change in the alliance's role from being a defense bulwark.

Nowadays, NATO is increasingly an alliance projecting stability beyond its own territory and a force reaching out to manage crises further and further afield.

"NATO is becoming not just a military alliance but a political organization," Mr. Solana said in an interview.

That new role's complexity has often obscured the alliance's identity as the alliance gropes its way forward, and no one seems more sensitive to these tensions — or more comfortable offering a pragmatic approach to overcoming them — than Mr. Solana.

Certainly no one is better placed to feel the irony of people calling out for NATO than Mr. Solana, 56. More than a decade ago as a Socialist foreign minister of Spain, he opposed his country's membership in the alliance, only to change his mind ("Only idiots never change their opinion," he said at the time).

Three years ago he became the top civilian leader of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — just as it hit its new stride in Bosnia-Herzegovina, enlargement and a new dialogue with Moscow.

"This place has become the magnetic pole on security issues," Mr. Solana said, meaning that NATO seems to be steadily securing a more dominant stature in people's thinking with every crisis in European security.

A NATO ambassador explained: "We've become a very self-confident organization with our recent successes, and I suppose that we're going to have to go on putting ourselves in places where angels used to fear to tread."

The Kosovo crisis last week again spotlighted NATO and Mr. Solana as he tried to mesh member states' political stances and NATO's military planning.

Simultaneously, he was the point man in the alliance's stumbling dialogue with Moscow, trying to persuade Russian leaders to support Western pressure on the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic, and perhaps make the Kosovo crisis a confidence builder — and not a confidence breaker — in long-term relations between Russia and the alliance.

All of these are ground-breaking steps for NATO.

In Kosovo, the alliance has for the first time sought to use its military force as a political tool to head off a civil war. This "preventive diplomacy," as it is known in the jargon of geopolitics, is something that NATO leaders had planned to discuss as a possible ambition for the alliance in the next decade.

"To some extent, we just have to go ahead where there are threats, and we'll work out the theory later," Mr. Solana said.

Preventive diplomacy is a new use for NATO, politically trickier than peacekeeping. Even in Bosnia, the alliance was invited in only after a political settlement.

True, the Serbs had been brought to the bargaining table in large part by allied air raids, but alliance leaders had waited until prolonged bloodshed had convinced international opinion of the need to act.

In contrast, NATO governments seem close to political consensus favoring military action in Kosovo even though the toll of ethnic Albanians so far is "only" 300 dead. The military risks are graver.

If NATO intervened to force an end to the fighting, it would probably have to knock out part of Serbia's air defenses — a robust Soviet-built system that had no equivalent in Bosnia.

The main planning is done under NATO's supreme commander, always a U.S. officer — currently General Wesley Clark. But the secretary-general — always a European — has an international staff of about 200 uniformed officers from allied countries to help ensure that military tactics match member states' political strategies.

NATO's ties with Moscow are a top priority — "more important in the long run even than Bosnia or Kosovo," an alliance ambassador said, explaining that the bloc has emerged as a key intermediary in Western efforts to reach a new relationship with Russia.

Mr. Solana won his spurs with his

success as the prime negotiator with Russia about NATO expansion.

His diplomacy also took him to Poland, which is in the process of becoming a big new ally; to the Baltic states, and to Italy, where he met with Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary-general, and the head of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, an umbrella body that could be useful in developing a mandate for NATO intervention in Kosovo.

None of his roles — running the alliance, building allied consensus and doing NATO's diplomacy — gives Mr. Solana the power of final decision. That belongs to the 16 member states.

Instead, Mr. Solana's job is to ensure that the 16 capitals (soon to be 19) stay roughly in step — and that Moscow is brought along as far as possible.

That may explain why Mr. Solana, a physicist-turned-politician, said his most satisfying moments on the job were the times "when I can be the catalyst of consensus."

"He's a politician, a consummate one, and just what we needed since the alliance had already developed a vague strategic blueprint for its post-Cold War role," a NATO ambassador said.

The strategic vision came largely from Manfred Woerner, an ex-German defense minister who was secretary-general from 1986 to 1992.

Mr. Solana's style — low-key but relentlessly energetic — is credited with helping NATO move past problems without getting hung up on theory.

Italian Government Split As NATO Debate Begins

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ROME — Italy's governing parties were badly divided on Monday as the Chamber of Deputies began debating NATO expansion.

The government's main ally, the far-left Refounded Communist Party, opposes the expansion and has said it will vote against the treaty in the lower house. The vote was expected Tuesday.

But the center-right opposition, as well as a small group of centrists, suggested they could come to the aid of the government of Prime Minister Romano Prodi.

The government would need at least some of their votes to ratify the treaty because it cannot muster a majority on its own in the lower house.

The treaty must be ratified by all 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organization members, plus the three eastern European candidates: Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

The vote has become the subject of internal politics among Italy's parties as the center-right opposition led by Silvio Berlusconi is hoping to use it to bring down the government.

Mr. Berlusconi and his allies have called for Mr. Prodi's center-left government to resign if it fails to secure the votes of Fausto Bertinotti's communists.

"No one would understand, and it would be a true insult to our national interests, if Parliament voted against NATO's expansion purely for motives of internal politics," said an editorial in

La Repubblica newspaper Monday.

The Senate, where Mr. Prodi has a clear majority, has ratified the treaty.

If the division in the governing bloc does prompt a vote of confidence, Mr. Bertinotti has said he will close ranks and keep Mr. Prodi in office.

Refounded Communist Party deputies are opposed to NATO, let alone its enlargement. Although the party has said that it will vote against the motion, other supporters of the coalition have appealed for it to abstain.

An abstention, although highly unlikely, would lower the number of votes needed to pass the measure.

The main Freedom Alliance opposition bloc, led by Mr. Berlusconi, supports NATO enlargement, as does the new UDR centrist party founded by a former president, Francesco Cossiga.

Boosted by a good showing in local elections earlier this month, the Freedom Alliance has demanded that Mr. Prodi resign after the vote in acknowledgment that he no longer has an effective majority.

A new "no" from the Refounded Communists "would confirm yet again that the government is without a majority in the big issues of our foreign policy and that it is not in a position to fulfill its international commitments," Mr. Bertinotti said.

The UDR, a small group made up of centrists who defected from the center-right and center-left parties, favors NATO expansion but has not yet committed itself to support the Prodi government on this issue. (AP, Reuters)

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6 Envoys Quit Minsk in Rift Over Eviction From Houses

Agence France-Press

MINSK — Ambassadors from the United States and five European Union pulled out of the capital of Belarus on Monday in a dispute over diplomatic residences.

The governments represented by the ambassadors vowed to expel the Belarus counterparts.

Minsk countered with a charge that the ambassadors had violated the Vienna Convention on diplomatic behavior by failing to respect the laws, traditions and culture of the host country.

At issue was the government's decision to evict about 20 ambassadors from their residences in Drodzy, a park-like compound. Last week, the president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, annexed the compound into the Presidential Palace grounds.

To underscore their displeasure, the countries involved — Britain, France, Germany, Greece and Italy as well as the United States — recalled their ambassadors for consultations, and announced that they wanted the Belarus ambassadors withdrawn from their capitals.

The EU members said they would expel Belarusian ambassadors in protest, while the United States said it had ordered the Belarusian envoy, currently in Minsk, not to return to Washington until the issue was cleared up.

The Belarusian envoy to the United States, Valeri Tsepkelo, will be asked to remain in Minsk during the period of consultations, the American ambassador, Daniel Speckhard, said as he prepared to board a flight for Frankfurt.

"This is very dangerous for our relations," added the German envoy, Horst Winkelmann. "I hope that the question will soon be resolved, but this depends on the intelligence of the authorities here."

The Japanese chargé d'affaires, Shigeo Natsui, said he was set to leave. Earlier, the British Embassy in Minsk issued a statement on behalf of the European Union indicating that Belarusian envoys would soon be asked to leave.

"The EU stands ready to resume a dialogue with the Belarusian government," it stressed, adding that talks would only be possible when the Belarus authorities respected "the fundamental principles governing diplomatic relations and representations."

Belarus cut off water and electricity and barred access to the houses.



Daniel Speckhard, the U.S. envoy, on a phone at the Minsk airport.

Britain to Lower Consent Age for Gay Sex

Reuters

LONDON — Britain was set to lower the age of consent for homosexuals to 16 from 18 on Monday despite strong opposition from the Church of England.

Parliament was expected to back the change by a two-to-one majority. The legislation would align the homosexu-

al and heterosexual age of consent. The Church of England said lowering the age of consent for homosexuals "may give wrong messages."

Opponents of the change were trying to garner support for an amendment that would make homosexual acts involving minors and adults in positions of authority an offense.

BRIEFLY

Moscow Cleaning Up

MOSCOW — The cleanup and repair bill from a powerful weekend storm will be about 100 million rubles (\$15 million), city officials said Monday. The death toll rose to nine, with more than 280 injured.

The city deployed thousands of workers to clean up the mess from the storm, which struck shortly before midnight Saturday. Boris Nikolsky, a top deputy to Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, told the Interfax news agency that most of the work should be done within three days.

The thunderstorm, bearing near-hurricane force winds, raged for about 30 minutes, uprooting thousands of trees, smashing windows and flattening small shops. The Bolshoi Theater, Kremlin walls and Moskva Hotel near Red Square were all damaged.

Mr. Luzhkov said power lines were downed in more than 700 places. (AP)

Turkey Recalls Envoy

ANKARA — Turkey has recalled its ambassador from Switzerland for

consultations, apparently because of irritations about a Swiss refusal to let Turkey celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Lausanne Treaty in that city, the news channel NTV said.

Foreign Minister Ismail Cem is to send a letter in his Swiss counterpart, expressing Turkey's "indignation" over the Swiss attitude and warning of the consequences for bilateral ties, NTV said.

According to NTV, Ambassador Taner Baytok was recalled after the Swiss authorities refused to permit a celebration of the treaty, signed by Ankara and the World War I victors over the carving up of the Ottoman Empire. (AFP)

Russia Denies Spying

MOSCOW — The Foreign Ministry said Monday it regretted the expulsion of one of its diplomats from Switzerland and dismissed suggestions that he had been spying.

"This action of the Swiss authorities, taken without any explanation of the motive, evokes our surprise and regret," a ministry spokesman, Valeri

Nesterushkin, said at a briefing for the press.

Mr. Nesterushkin said the unnamed diplomat, whose expulsion was announced on Sunday, had returned to Moscow some time ago. He had been working with Russia's delegation at the United Nations in Geneva. (Reuters)

EU Farm Talks Start

LUXEMBOURG — European Union agriculture ministers started a four-day marathon session in Luxembourg on Monday, facing a long agenda including some sector reforms and setting farm prices and set-aside levels (the amount of land to be kept out of cultivation) for 1999/2000.

The initial meeting on Monday was being devoted to a review of the various ministers' positions on the list of topics, including reforms relating to the banana, olive oil and tobacco sectors.

Observers said that in view of the stakes involved for the various EU members, the meetings can be expected to stretch out to Thursday, and maybe even Friday. (AFP)

Yeltsin Fears a Fascist Trend in Russia

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin used a radio speech to the Russian people on Monday, the 57th anniversary of the German-led invasion of the Soviet Union, to warn that a neofascist movement was spreading in post-Communist Russia.

Hitler looked down on Russians and other Slavs as unworthy people, suitable for little more than manual labor to serve the Third Reich. His declared aim in the invasion, joined by several East European countries, was to destroy Bolshevism.

Over the last few months, Moscow has seen an increasing number of racist attacks by skinheads and others, drawing attention to the small but violent extremist movement.

"Half a century ago, our country saved the world from fascism," President Yeltsin said in his radio talk. "But today, it is raising its head in Russia, stupefying our youth."

Often poorly educated and

without hope of finding good work, some disaffected youths blame racial and religious minorities for their troubles, and call for a "strong hand" to regain Russian prosperity.

"Under the cover of fine words about the revival of Russia, of its national spirit, they are again looking for an enemy — to humiliate, to lock away in prisons, to shoot," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Although statistics are inconclusive, both neo-Nazis and human rights groups estimate that there are about 4,000 neofascists in Moscow, mostly young males.


They are becoming more active. Last month, a bomb exploded at a synagogue in the capital, injuring two people and causing extensive damage. Jewish leaders blamed fascist groups.

A black American Marine was badly beaten by four skinheads at a market.

"I am worried that not everybody is aware of the reality of the threat of ex-

tremism in Russia today," Mr. Yeltsin said. "Our common duty to the memory of the victims of fascism is not to allow the rebirth of the plague of the 20th century," he said.

In a survey conducted in May among 6,000 people across Russia, the Institute for the Sociology of Parliamentarism found that 11 percent of Russians thought fascists could come to power.

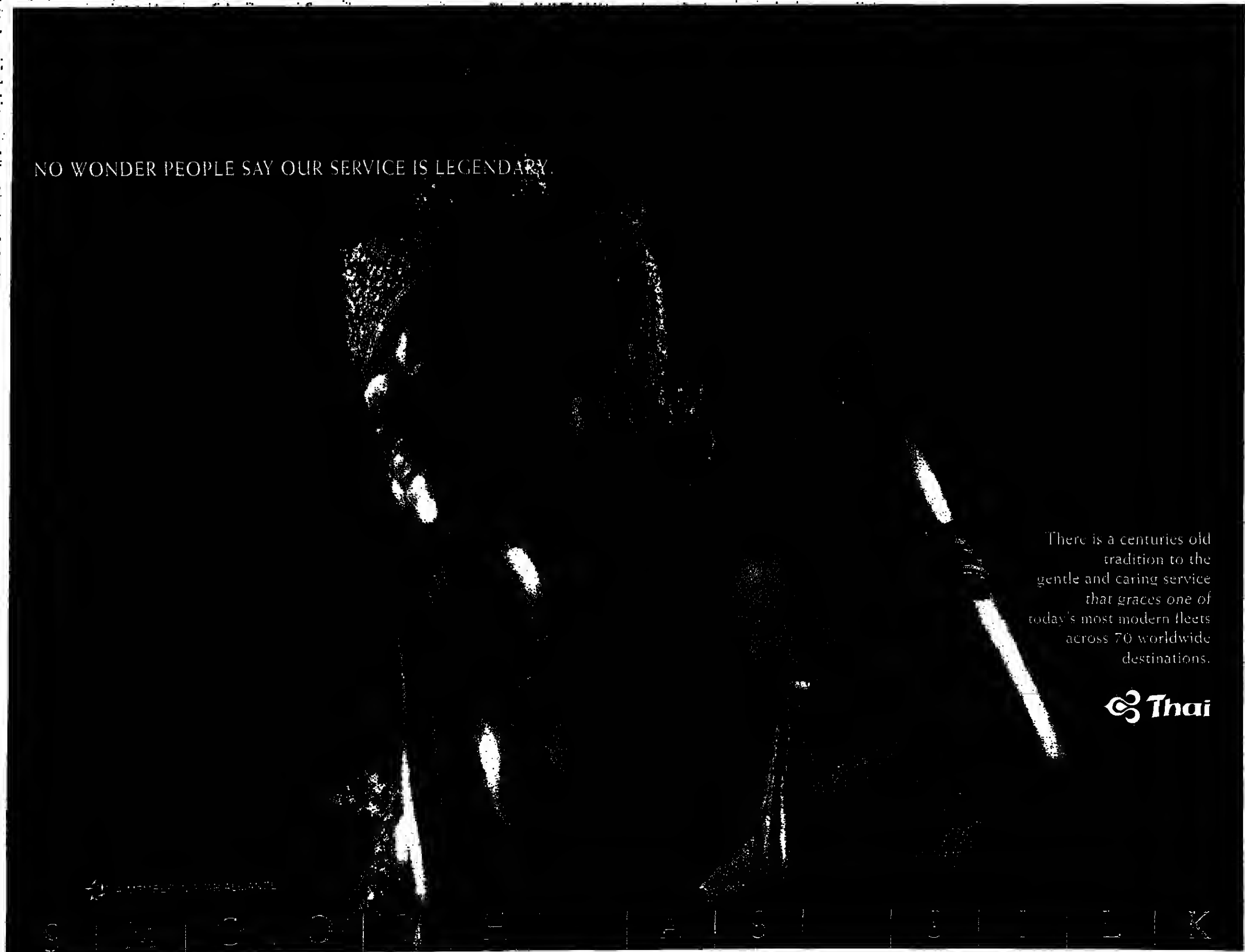


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ASIA/PACIFIC

India Hails Russian Vow To Construct 2 Reactors

Nuclear Deal Is Seen as Step Out of Isolation

NEW DELHI — India on Monday was savoring a deal with Russia to build the Subcontinent's first large nuclear power stations, a move that appeared to open a breach in the show of international unity against India's nuclear tests.

Indian specialists and officials said the decision by Moscow to revive a 10-year-old pact on the construction of two 1,000-megawatt nuclear reactors in southern India had broken the perceived isolation of the country after its underground nuclear tests last month.

But the sanctions took a further toll Monday as the value of Indian stocks and bonds declined and the country's currency, the rupee, fell to a record low against the U.S. dollar. Indian politicians contend that the country can withstand the U.S. sanctions that went into effect last week, but business leaders are less certain. The dollar closed Monday at 42.74 rupees, up from 42.20 Friday, as banks and importers rushed to buy dollars.

On Sunday, the Russian atomic energy minister, Yevgeni Adamov, and the chief of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, R. Chidambaram, initiated a pact to extend the reactor deal, which had been on hold since the collapse of the Soviet Union and which is now estimated to be worth \$3 billion.

The United States condemned Russia's decision. "This is not good news," the State Department spokesman, James Rubin, said in Washington. "It's the wrong message at the wrong time, and we are going to urge the Russians to reconsider."

After worldwide condemnation of its nuclear weapons tests, India sees the deal on the reactors as a breakthrough.

"There is an important signal involved here," said K. Subrahmanyam, an Indian defense expert. Despite condemnation of the nuclear tests by the UN Security Council, "it is quite likely more and more powers will realize it is better to do business as usual with India," he said.

Russia, one of the five permanent council members, joined in the global condemnation of the Indian nuclear tests and the counterbalancing by Pakistan but opposed punitive economic sanctions, saying they would hurt the poor.

A diplomat in New Delhi said some Western countries were viewing the reactor deal with regret because it could puncture attempts by the nuclear powers to maintain a common stance on India.

"I think the timing is quite unfortunate," the diplomat said.

The diplomat said that Moscow could go ahead with the deal on the ground

that it had been in the pipeline for years, but that it did not necessarily mean the door to additional nuclear cooperation between India and Russia was open.

Moscow, the diplomat said, is bound by guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, under which reactor technology is to be sold only to countries that permit international inspections. An Indian official familiar with the reactor deal said that the power station in Kudankulam would be subject to safeguards by the International Atomic Energy Agency. But this international control will apply only to the Kudankulam facility and not the entire Indian nuclear program.

New Delhi is hoping its traditionally good relations with Moscow will help it weather the international opposition to its nuclear tests, and both countries are seeking to bolster military ties. Last week, a high-ranking Indian military delegation was in Russia looking at military equipment, including fighter planes and air defense systems.

"More than this, there is a defense agreement that will likely be signed when President Yeltsin visits later this year," Mr. Subrahmanyam said, referring to a visit by Boris Yeltsin that had been scheduled for January but was postponed.

"That should send some good signals to the rest of the world," Mr. Subrahmanyam said.

(Reuters, AP)

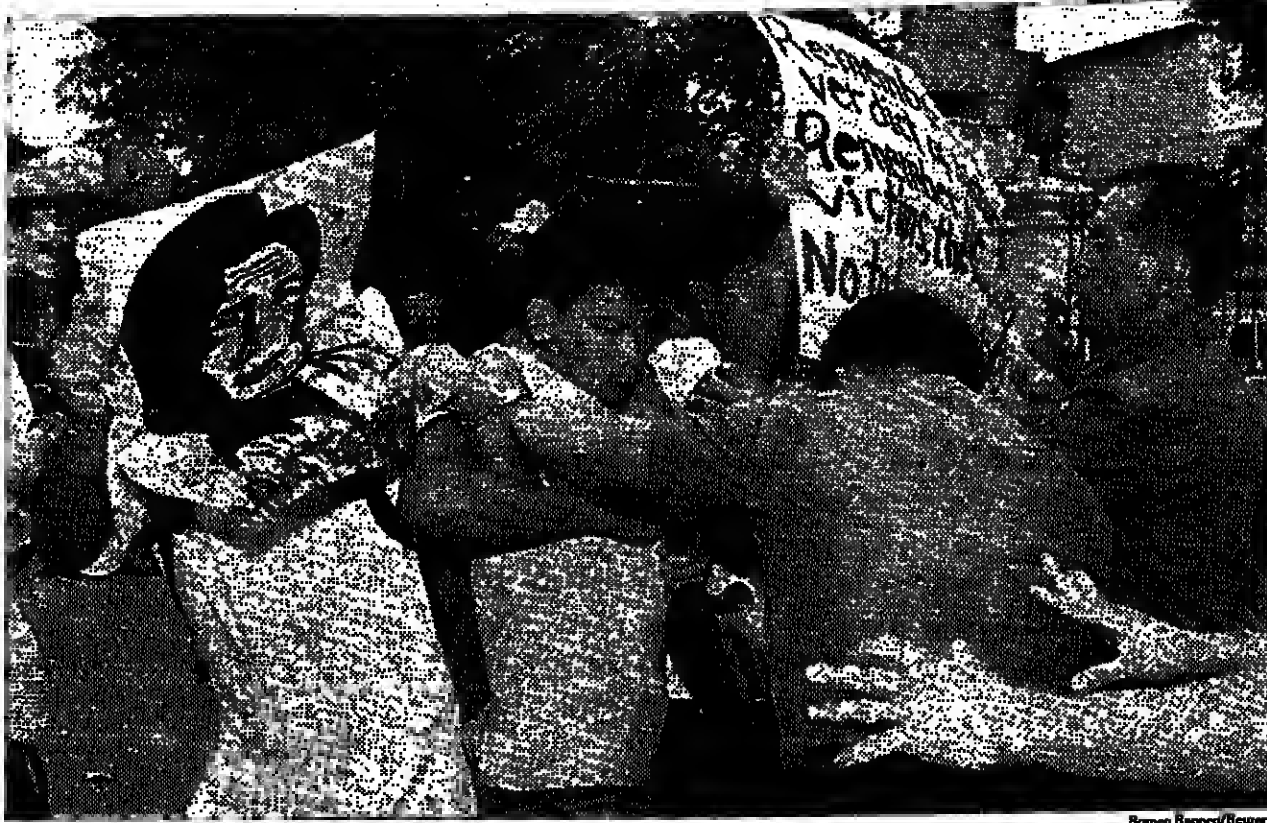
India Renews Offer of Talks
Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India renewed an offer on Monday for talks with Pakistan on all issues, including Kashmir, Reuters reported, quoting dispatches from Indian news agencies.

Mr. Vajpayee suggested no date or venue for a resumption of talks and described as "regrettable" calls for third-party mediation of the dispute over the Himalayan region, two-thirds of which is controlled by India.

Pakistan has said that the Kashmir dispute is a "core issue" that needs to be settled first and has urged major powers to help defuse the dispute. But United News of India quoted Mr. Vajpayee as saying, "I call upon Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to embrace the spirit of the Shimla agreement and join me in a fruitful and sustained dialogue on a whole array of bilateral issues, including Kashmir."

Under a peace agreement signed in Shimla in 1972 it was agreed that any talks on Kashmir should be bilateral.

"Voices for third-party mediation are being heard," Mr. Vajpayee said. "With our common experience of colonialism, we should be cautious of such attempts to internationalize problems in the region."



Filipino policemen and students battling Monday during a protest at the presidential palace over the burial.

Estrada Curbs Marcos Burial Ceremony

Only Family Can Attend, He Says, Forbidding Political Speeches

MANILA — President-elect Joseph Estrada told the widow of Ferdinand Marcos on Monday that he would allow the former president's burial at Heroes Cemetery if only family members attended and if there were no political speeches.

Seeking to calm a political storm after he agreed that Mr. Marcos could be buried alongside former presidents and war veterans, Mr. Estrada made public a copy of his letter to Imelda Marcos.

Mr. Estrada specified that no organized groups would be allowed along the route to the cemetery, that the rites should be strictly religious and that "the funeral shall be limited to the immediate Marcos family of not more than 50 persons."

"No political statements shall be made," his letter said.

A longtime Marcos supporter, Mr. Estrada said that he might attend the funeral, planned July 11 in the capital.

Mr. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, and his preserved body has been kept since 1993 in a glass case in the family mausoleum in his hometown in northern Ilocos Norte Province.

"My motivation is simple," Mr. Estrada said in his letter. "I hope that by finally laying to rest his mortal remains, the decade-long turmoil over the issue

will subside." Human rights groups have attacked the burial plans, saying that a dictator and a man who plundered the country has no place in the national cemetery.

Communist guerrillas, infuriated by Mr. Estrada's decision, said Sunday that they were forming special units to kidnap Mrs. Marcos and her children and put them on trial for "crimes against the people." The outgoing president, Fidel Ramos, ordered tighter security for the Marcos family.

Mr. Ramos said he had also directed the military and the police to ensure that rebels did not disrupt Mr. Estrada's inauguration as president on June 30.

Besides targeting the Marcoses, the leftist rebels said they would abduct Mr. Marcos's top associates, but did not name them.

A spokesman for the Communist New People's Army, Gregorio Rosal, said in a radio interview that the rebels planned to set up a special court to try the Marcoses.

"We all know they committed high crimes," he said. Asked if the rebels would impose the death sentence on the Marcoses, he said, "Let us leave it up to the court and to the revolutionary movement."

A dozen students staged a noisy

protest outside the presidential palace on Monday, carrying signs that read: "No to Heroes' Burial" and "Remember the Victims, the Sufferings."

Mrs. Marcos has been sentenced to 12 years in jail for graft but is free on bail while her case goes to appeal.

Estrada Foe Defiant

The outspoken head of one of the Philippines' most successful industrial estates said Monday that he would defy a plan by Mr. Estrada to remove him from office. The Associated Press reported.

Richard Gordon, chairman of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said he would go to court to stop Mr. Estrada from removing him from the Subic Bay freeport, a former U.S. naval base north of Manila.

"This is personal," Mr. Gordon said. "I'm ready to debate with him in court about this." Mr. Estrada says he plans to fire Mr. Gordon on his first day in office.

Mr. Gordon, former mayor of Olongapo City outside the Subic base, fought fiercely against Philippine senators, including Mr. Estrada, who voted in 1991 not to extend the U.S. lease on the base. The naval facility was closed the following year.

BRIEFLY

4 Officers Arrested In Korean Scandal

SEOUL — The South Korean Army's adjutant general and three other officers have been arrested in a draft scandal, the Defense Ministry said Monday.

In announcing the arrests, the ministry also issued a list of 400 people it said were under investigation on suspicion of taking or giving bribes to help the sons of the wealthy or influential avoid military service.

The list named 267 civilians and 133 army officers, including seven active-service army generals and six retired generals. (AP)

Taiwan Pools Shut Because of Virus

TAIPEI — Health authorities in Taiwan closed school swimming pools on Monday in hopes it would help curb an intestinal virus that has already killed 50 children.

Authorities will consider whether to reopen the pools on July 1, and are debating whether to cancel summer camps and swimming programs. Operators of commercial swimming pools were being asked to bar children under 12 years old, who are particularly vulnerable to the enterovirus 71 that has swept over much of the island. (AP)

87 Reported Killed In Sri Lanka Battle

NEW DELHI — Heavy new fighting raged in northern and eastern Sri Lanka on Monday, and government troops and Tamil Tiger guerrillas lost at least 87 combatants, according to rival claims.

Government forces opened a new front against the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the east with an offensive against the rebel-held town of Vakarai, the military said. (AP)

For the Record

The head of Indonesia's largest Muslim group and an ethnic Chinese tycoon on Monday jointly urged Chinese Indonesians who fled last month's rioting to return from abroad and help restore the economy. (AP)



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BRIEFLY

4 Officers Arrested
In Korean Scandal

SEOUL — The South Korean Army's adjutant general and three other officers have been arrested in a scandal, the Defense Ministry said Monday.

In announcing the arrests, the ministry also issued a list of people it said were under investigation on suspicion of taking bribes to help the army's military or influential avoid military service.

The list named 267 civilians, 19 army officers, including one senior service army general, and two retired generals.

Taiwan Pools Shut
Because of Virus

TAIPEI — Health authorities closed school swimming pools Monday in hopes of preventing an intestinal virus that has killed 50 children.

Authorities will consider closing the pools on July 1, depending on whether the virus spreads to other camps and swimming pools. Operators of community pools were being urged to close them under 12-year-old children under 12 years old, particularly vulnerable to the disease.

87 Reported Killed
In Sri Lanka Bomb

COLOMBO — Heavy shelling in northern Sri Lanka Monday killed 87 people, including 12 children, and wounded 100, the Sri Lanka Army said.

The army said the shelling was in response to the killing of 12 children in a school in the north.

For the Record

Indonesia's largest island, Sumatra, was hit by a major earthquake Monday, killing at least 1,000 people and leaving 10 million homeless.

Doesn't Dexia ring a bell? But where did you hear about us?

Le Monde

09/10/96
Le Crédit Communal de Belgique et le Crédit local de France fusionnent dans Dexia.
Le nouvel ensemble pèsera 40 milliards de francs de fonds propres. La fusion économique annoncée en mars entre le Crédit local de France (CLF) et le Crédit Communal de Belgique (CCB) va prochainement devenir effective. Des assemblées générales d'actionnaires sont appelées le 9 et le 14 octobre à approuver les modalités du rapprochement. Le CLF et le CCB vont devenir des holdings et transférer tout leur contenu à deux sociétés opérationnelles dont chaque partenaire détiendra 50 %.

LE SOIR

17/12/96
Dexia est né. Reste à lui donner du contenu... Dexia fixe son premier objectif : des acquisitions. Le groupe bancaire belgo-français dispose d'un trésor de guerre pour financer ses futures emplettes européennes.

LA LIBRE BELGIQUE

17/12/96
Le groupe Dexia s'est assuré les moyens de ses ambitions internationales. Le président François Narmon n'exclut aucun marché pour donner au groupe belgo-français une nouvelle dimension.

mer leur confiance dans la stratégie des deux groupes. Dexia qui devrait déboursier entre 1,6 et 1,9 milliard de francs pour cette opération, n'envisage pas d'augmenter sa participation dans Crediop.

Het Nieuwsblad

02/04/97
Gemeentekrediet boekt winst van 10 miljard. De groep Dexia, de alliantie tussen het Gemeentekrediet en Crédit local de France (CLF), haalde in 1996 een nettogroepswinst van 19,4 miljard frank. Hoewel Dexia in 1995 nog niet bestond, stelde de groep pro forma-resultaten

VERS L'AVENIR

02/04/97
Dexia : un bénéfice de 19,4 milliards. 1996 est la 1ère année d'exercice du groupe Dexia, le groupe bancaire européen issu, en octobre 1996, de la fusion économique du Crédit Communal et du Crédit local de France. Dexia a connu un excellent exercice qui confirme la stratégie européenne du groupe employant 10 000 personnes.

Handelsblatt

02/04/97
Dexia Ensemble will weiter wachsen.

men in de Bel20-index. Het aandeel van het Gemeentekrediet voldeet aan alle voorwaarden voor opname, ook de eis dat het aandeel minstens acht maanden op de twaalf in de omzetsom 20 van de termijnaandelen prijkt. CMB voldoet aan alle voorwaarden om te worden vervangen.

Les Echos

01/09/97
Pierre Richard s'explique sur la stratégie de Dexia. Dans une interview aux «Echos», le président de Dexia et du Crédit local de France affiche clairement son ambition : faire partie,

ce de Dexia, le groupe financier issu de la fusion entre le Crédit local de France et le Crédit Communal de Belgique, a augmenté de 23,1 %, pour atteindre 2,1 milliards de francs.

LE SOIR

16/01/98
Dexia sort de la BBL avec le pactole : 15,5 milliards et «quelques dizaines» d'autres pour grandir.

l'Écho

30/01/98
Dexia : forte croissance (+ 54 %) des activités de banque privée. Les primes encasées en matière

1997 (par rapport à 3,2 milliards de francs en 1996) sont confirmées.

La Tribune

09/02/98
Dexia filialise son activité internationale. Le groupe Dexia va filialiser son activité internationale de financement des équipements collectifs, qui sera dorénavant assurée par une nouvelle entité, Dexia Project & Public Finance International Bank. Dotée d'un capital de 3,3 milliards de francs, cette structure

Het principe-akkoord om de levensverzekeringsactiviteiten van Omob over te nemen is slechts een van de drie concrete dossiers die Dexia bestudeert. Voorzitter François Narmon maakte er gisteren bij de voorstelling van de jaarresultaten geen geheim van dat de groep, ontstaan uit de alliantie van het Gemeentekrediet en Crédit local de France, actief speelt naar overname-opportunititeiten om haar activiteiten verder te ontwikkelen.

Correspondance économique

02/04/98
Les hommes et les affaires. Dexia, qui affiche un résultat en hausse sensible à 3,57 milliards de francs vient de conclure avec le principal assureur-vie en Belgique, un important accord de principe en bancassurance. Dexia, né de l'alliance du Crédit local de France et du Crédit Communal de Belgique, a conclu avec la Smap, principal assureur-vie en Belgique, un important accord de principe de bancassurance en Belgique. Cet accord va permettre à Dexia «de renforcer son pôle assurance», a souligné hier le groupe présidé par M. Pierre Richard.

LA LIBRE BELGIQUE

02/04/98
Le groupe Dexia mise sur la bancassurance en signant un accord de principe avec la Smap. Il a réalisé une plus-value de 14,6 milliards sur la vente des titres BBL. Avidé d'acquisitions, il pourrait s'intéresser au Lyonnais Belge.

investir

06/04/98
Dexia : de nombreuses alliances en préparation. Résultat : près de 6 milliards engrangés en 1997, grâce à une plus-value exceptionnelle.



Dexia, the European banking group created by the merger of Crédit local de France and Crédit Communal de Belgique, reported total assets of 185 billion euros

at the end of 1997. Dexia is the European leader in the financing of public service facilities and is also active in commercial banking and asset management.

LA VIE FRANÇAISE

11/10/96
Dexia, c'est le nom du groupe bancaire européen né de la fusion entre le Crédit local de France et le Crédit Communal de Belgique, approuvée en assemblée générale des actionnaires le 9 octobre. Le dividende exceptionnel de 25,50 francs, avoir fiscal compris, sera mis en paiement le 16 décembre prochain. Conserver le Crédit local.

De Personeel

21/11/96
De vliegende start van Dexia België. De oude parketvloer van de beurs van Brussel deed nog eens uitzonderlijk dienst. Niet als centrale verhandelingsplaats maar als een soort ontbijtkamer waarbij de genodigden "live" konden meemaken hoe de Gemeentekrediet-Holding, bekend als "Dexia GK" op de schermen, een vliegende start zou nemen. Terwijl de eerste minuten hectisch verliepen, bleef de preciese

FINANCIAL TIMES

25/02/97
Crediop deal completes Dexia network.

Il Sole 24 ORE

25/02/97
Dexia, colosso franco-belga del credito agli enti locali, acquista il 40 % del Crediop e prenota l'1 % della banca torinese. Il San Paolo trova soci Oltralpe. L'operazione vale 500 miliardi. Per l'Istituto di Zandano utili a 600 miliardi.

LE POINT

28/02/97
ACTIF. Crédit local de France. Nouveau coup d'éclat pour le Crédit local de France. Fruit de sa fusion, l'an dernier, avec le Crédit Communal de Belgique, le nouvel ensemble Dexia vient de prendre 40 % de l'italien Crediop, spécialiste des prêts aux collectivités transalpines. Les marchés ont plutôt bien réagi à cette nouvelle. Il est vrai que les agences de notation financière Standard & Poor's et Moody's se sont empressées de réaffir-

op voor dat jaar. Daaruit blijkt dat de winst in 1996 tegenover 1995 is gestegen met 13,1 procent. Het Gemeentekrediet zelf boekte een nettowinst van 9,7 miljard frank, 13,7 procent meer dan een jaar geleden. "En net de helft van 19,4 miljard frank", grapt topman François Narmon gisteren.

HET LAATSTE NIEUWS

02/04/97
Gemeentekrediet (Dexia) vaart wel bij huwelijk met CLF. Als groep heeft de Frans-Belgische "inatie Dexia" (Crédit local de France en Gemeentekrediet) 19,4 miljard frank nettowinst geboekt.

LE FIGARO

02/04/97
Dexia veut améliorer sa rentabilité. Le groupe bancaire a enregistré une hausse de 10 % de son résultat net 1996. Il vise une rentabilité sur fonds propres de 13 %.

De Personeel

01/08/97
CMB geen enkele keer in maandelijkse omzetting. Dexia GK altijd. Dexia GK duwt CMB uit BEL20. Het vermoeden was er al langer, maar sinds gisteren hebben we zekerheid : Dexia GK zal na de handelssessie van vrijdag 19 december de plaats van CMB inne-

d'ici à cinq ans, des 30 premières banques mondiales.

Finance

13/10/97
Le marché séduit par Dexia France. Dexia a présenté à la communauté financière des résultats semestriels significativement supérieurs aux anticipations. Les analystes révisent en hausse leurs objectifs de croissance des bénéfices et saluent l'effort de transparence financière du groupe.

Finances

13/10/97
Excellents résultats. Au 30 juin, le béné-

d'assurance-vie ont grimpé de 160 %.

LE REVENU

06/02/98
Dexia : forte croissance de toutes les activités. Financement des équipements collectifs, activité de banque commerciale, gestion d'actifs : tous les clignotants sont au vert pour Dexia. Les seuls crédits aux collectivités locales ont progressé de 17,6 % en 1997, permettant au groupe de détenir une part de marché de plus de 10 % en Europe. Compte tenu de cette forte activité, les prévisions d'une croissance à deux chiffres pour les résultats de

l'Écho

21/02/98
Dexia Asset Management verra le jour cette année. Cette structure grand-ducale présidera un réseau de filiales étrangères, en Belgique, Suisse, Singapour, Grande-Bretagne, France et Australie.

De Standaard

02/04/98
Dexia speelt actief naar overnamekansen Winst-klim met 13 procent tot 21,9 miljard frank.



INTERNATIONAL

Colombian President's Accuser Handily Wins the Presidency

By Diana Jean Schemo
New York Times Service

BOGOTA — Colombians have voted a resounding end to the presidency of Ernesto Samper, electing as his successor the man who first accused Mr. Samper of accepting money from drug dealers.

The election Sunday of Andres Pastrana, the Conservative former mayor of Bogota, over Horacio Serpa of the Liberal Party, Mr. Samper's interior minister and most loyal advocate, opens a new chapter in Colombia's relations with the United States, which have boiled over with bitterness and suspicion during Mr. Samper's four years in power.

With more than 96 percent of the vote counted, Mr. Pastrana had won 50.3 percent of the vote, to 46.25 percent for Mr. Serpa.

"The country clearly came out to vote for change," Mr. Pastrana said.

The unusually strong showing of Mr. Pastrana — who won a higher number of votes than any previously elected president — and a high turnout came in sharp contrast to public opinion surveys, all of which had shown the two candidates virtually tied for the presidency and had predicted a low voter turnout.

Rodrigo Losada, a political scientist at Javeriana University, said, "It's a rejection of all the negative things the country has been living through for the last four years — the government policies, unemployment, corruption, and a style of politics that's very tied to patronage."

Alfredo Rangel, a former national security adviser who confessed to being "absolutely surprised" by the results, agreed. "The Liberal Party political machine couldn't pull it off," he said. "And it was mobilized to the maximum."

Mr. Rangel said that relations with the United States would improve dramati-

cally with Sunday's election of Mr. Pastrana, probably entering a new era of closeness and cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Serpa, in defending Mr. Samper, had frequently lashed out publicly against U.S. officials, at one point calling the former American ambassador here, Myles Frechette, "the crazy gringo."

Mr. Serpa conceded defeat Sunday night, saying, "I congratulate Andres Pastrana for his election as Colombia's next president, and I call on all my fellow countrymen to support him and accompany him in the difficult task he faces."

Under Mr. Samper, who was accused of accepting \$6 million from drug dealers in his election campaign and who was stripped of his U.S. visa two years ago, American officials cultivated ties with other individuals or agencies — like the chief of police, General Rosso Jose Serrano — while largely avoiding

direct encounters with the president. While Mr. Pastrana may enjoy strong electoral backing, the Congress here remains heavily Liberal. Ingrid Betancur, a Liberal deputy who has been supporting Mr. Pastrana's candidacy, said that Mr. Pastrana would probably seek a public referendum to elect a new Congress as part of an overall drive for political reform if he could not govern with the current Congress.

As president elect, Mr. Pastrana's first order of business is expected to be a direct meeting with the leader of the largest rebel group that has been battling government security forces for more than 30 years, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. He pledges to hold such a meeting as early as next week if security permits.

The two candidates' potential ability to negotiate an end to the civil conflict that has claimed more than 30,000 lives in Colombia was, along with the econ-

omy, a top issue in the campaign. With the strong support of Colombia's business community and his Conservative credentials unquestioned by the military, Mr. Pastrana appears to have wide latitude for tackling the country's most difficult problems.

In the final days of campaigning, Mr. Pastrana had pledged to meet with Manuel Marulanda, the rebel leader, who had already met with Mr. Pastrana's campaign chief the week before.

Mr. Pastrana has vowed to lead negotiations with the leftist rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and with the smaller National Liberation Army and has agreed to a guerrilla demand that government security forces evacuate five municipalities during any peace negotiations. He has pledged separate parallel talks with right-wing paramilitary leaders, who have been demanding a say in any peace negotiations.

NIGERIA:
Exit by Military?

Continued from Page 1

said Mr. Elaiwu, who lectures at Nigeria's military academies and has known General Abubakar for years.

Virtually all analysts say that General Abubakar is a career officer likely to be troubled by the military's loss of integrity, prestige and cohesion as a result of its long, corrupt and economically disastrous rule.

Still, "after several years of misgovernment, they have a serious problem in disengaging" from power, said Alani Akintunde, a former army general now a pro-democracy activist in exile in the United States. Officers could risk prosecution by future governments for corruption and human rights abuses, "and they are looking for some way to protect themselves," Mr. Akintunde said.

In terse initial statements after General Abacha's death, General Abubakar insisted that he would help to establish a civilian government. But last week, hints of change emerged.

Officials released nine of Nigeria's scores of political prisoners last Tuesday, including the former military ruler Olesegun Obasanjo — and another six on Thursday. Top officers have said privately that more releases are planned, according to Dapo Olorunoyi, a Nigerian editor in exile near Washington.

On Wednesday, General Abubakar met leaders of the five legal political parties, which under General Abacha were seen as his puppets. They now are pressing for at least some democratizing reforms in the transition plan.

And top officers or their associates have been making discreet contacts to talk politics with opponents, including Mr. Abiola, the political leader M.D. Yusufu, and Nigerian dissidents in exile.

But leaders of Nigeria's mainstream pro-democracy movement, centered in the southern city of Lagos, say they have heard nothing from the military, even privately.

They largely have dismissed the gestures of General Abubakar's government and promise a campaign of civil disobedience to force the military to hand over power immediately.

The conflict has led to clashes, arrests and deaths in the last two months.

As with all politics in Nigeria, this is largely an ethnic and cultural conflict. The military is dominated by northerners from predominantly Islamic, Hausa-speaking ethnic groups. The pro-democracy movement is rooted mainly in the Yoruba homelands of the southwest, around Lagos.

Pro-democracy activists, largely Yorubas, insist that the military must oust Mr. Abiola from a transitional government to oversee drafting of a new constitution and the holding of elections.

In Abuja, the Nigerian capital, a government spokesman told Reuters that negotiations with Chief Abiola began last Tuesday. "We have reached an advanced stage," he said.

Mr. Abiola is being held in a comfortable house in Abuja and recently has been permitted exercise, taking regular walks escorted by soldiers, said his daughter, Hafsat Abiola.

While the family does not know details of the talks, the military has made clear "it wants him to give up his claim" as the rightful leader of Nigeria, said Hafsat Abiola, who lives in exile near Washington.

Top officers are pressing her father to accept a lesser role in a transition or to leave public life, his daughter said. They have suggested that they would not force him to abandon a future run for the presidency, she said, but after the scuttling of the 1993 vote. "How can we trust that?"

More Oil for Nigerians

The new Nigerian regime, seeking to combat fuel shortages, has increased the amount of crude oil for domestic consumption by 20 percent, press accounts said Monday, Agence France-Presse reported from Lagos.

'Geraldo' Going To China for NBC

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The "Today" show is sending one of NBC's high-powered correspondents to China for President Bill Clinton's trip. His name is Geraldo Rivera.

Some NBC reporters are apoplectic over the decision, especially after the network submitted requests for Mr. Rivera to chat with Mr. Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Mr. Rivera has a reputation for flamboyance from his years as a daytime talk-show host; his nose was broken in an on-air fight, and he once had fat piped into his forehead. But he has regained a measure of respect for his CNBC legal show.

"I'm experimenting," said Jeff Zucker, executive producer of "Today." "Geraldo has his own style that has both fans and detractors. But he has a style that's unique."

But one NBC staffer, who asked not to be identified because her bosses are supporting Mr. Rivera, said: "Everyone is just appalled and outraged. It changes the whole product. It's clearly an effort at legitimizing him."

Mr. Rivera signed a contract with NBC News last fall that is said to be worth \$5 million.

After Mr. Rivera arrives in China, Mr. Zucker said, he will develop feature stories while NBC's White House correspondents cover breaking news. But Andrea Mitchell, NBC's chief foreign affairs correspondent, did not make the cut.

JIANG: China's Leader Appears to Stake Legacy on U.S. Ties

Continued from Page 1

group from the former prime minister, Li Peng, consolidating his control over foreign policy.

Mr. Li was known, American diplomats have contended, as an opponent of close ties with the United States. He is closely associated with the crackdown on student-led demonstrations around Tiananmen Square in June 1989. And he spoke often of the need to create a "multi-polar world order" and against the domination by a single superpower, the United States.

"Mao, Deng and Zhou Enlai really took the United States very seriously — as the most important country in the world and worked to build good ties with America," said Yuan Ming, the head of the Institute for International Relations at Beijing University. "Jiang has inherited these ideas. In this regard, he is a good student of Deng."

The reason Mr. Jiang has gone to bat for U.S.-China ties, Mr. Yuan and others say, is two-fold.

First, improving ties with the United States is now seen by many in China as a good unto itself — important both for China's desired status as a world, or at least regional, power and its economic development.

If China views itself as threatened by the United States, said Joseph Fewsmith, a political scientist at Boston University, that makes a lot of domestic reform policies more difficult to achieve — such as expanding the stockholder system and other capitalist-style reforms.

In that way, he said, Mr. Jiang and Mr. Li are both convinced of the linkage between relations with the United States and domestic politics — but for very different reasons. "Li was suspicious of the United States, and tensions within the relationship bolstered some of his efforts to hinder reform," Mr. Fewsmith said.

"Jiang seems to have overcome his initial suspicions of the U.S. and to have become committed to the relationship — but now he needs a successful summit to sell the relationship to sometime skeptical colleagues."

The second reason for Mr. Jiang's efforts to cultivate the United States is that after years of trying to deal with Taiwan directly, he has apparently come to the conclusion that the road to reunification with the breakaway province of 21 million people leads through Washington.

In January 1995, he put forward an eight-point program for reunification with Taiwan that among other things allowed Taiwan to keep its own armed forces and political system.

That year, in what was interpreted as a bitter defeat for Mr. Jiang, Taiwan's president, Lee Teng-hui, rejected the

China Snag for Clinton

The Boston Globe

WASHINGTON — As President Bill Clinton prepared for summit meeting in China this week, his advisers have been surprised by threats from the Beijing government not to broadcast his speeches live.

Citing "technical difficulties," Chinese authorities have told a White House advance team that it would be nearly impossible to show several toasts and speeches live with simultaneous translation.

U.S. officials say the Chinese are making excuses.

Taped and delayed broadcasts will give President Jiang Zemin's government time to edit Mr. Clinton's speeches, tooting down or deleting any calls for democratic openings and improvements in human rights.

President Clinton is to arrive in China on Thursday.

program and then obtained a visa to the United States, thanks in part to Taiwan's well-oiled lobbying machine in Washington.

China reacted strongly, launching two sets of war games off Taiwan's coast. The United States dispatched two aircraft carrier battle groups during the second exercises in 1996.

U.S.-China relations — and the prospect of reunification with Taiwan — could not have been worse.

After that debacle, Chinese analysts said, Mr. Jiang profited from the decision to improve ties with the United States by jumping on the bandwagon.

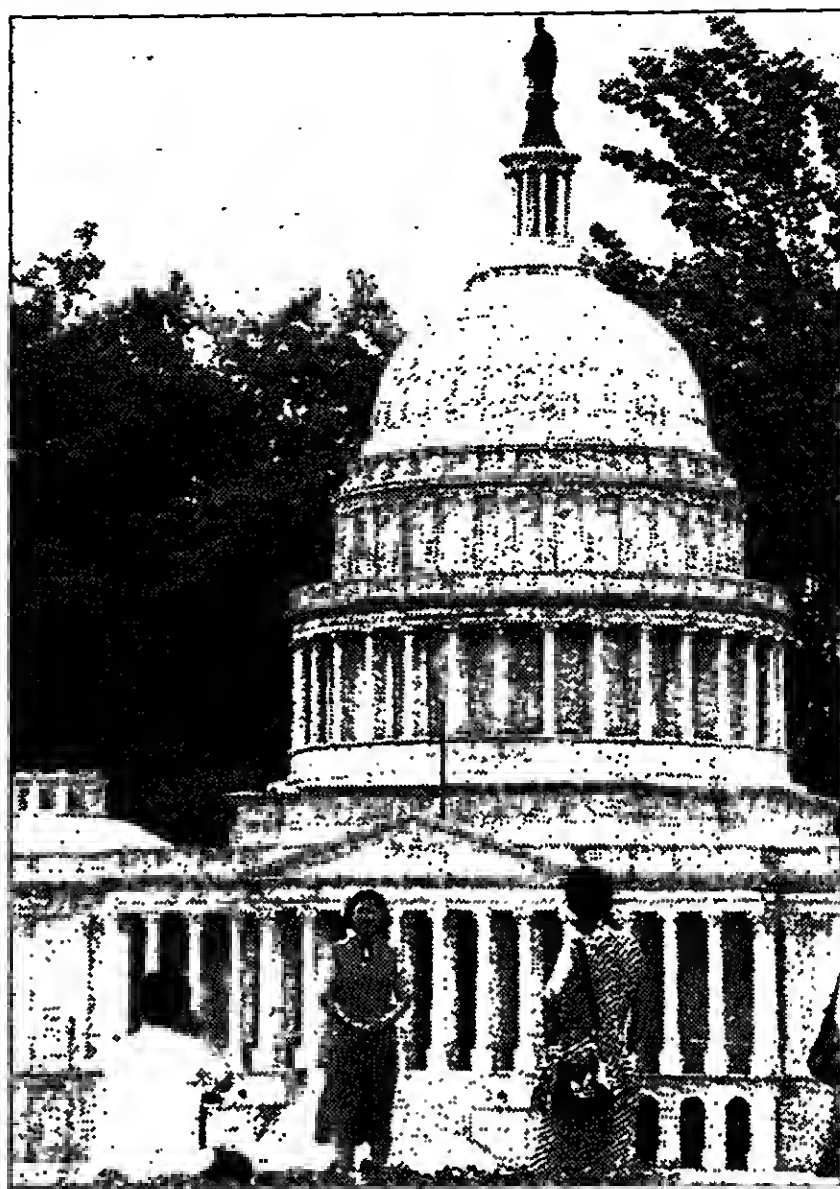
A senior Chinese diplomat said that as ties with the United States improve, China expected that Washington would begin to pressure Taiwan to engage in reunification talks with China.

Already a series of former U.S. officials, like former Secretary of Defense William Perry, have gone to Taiwan with a blunt message: If you declare independence, the United States might not be there to protect you if China attacks.

Prime Minister Zhu Rongji has been given responsibility for the economy and for carrying out the risky reforms of state-owned industries. Mr. Li, who became chairman of the National People's Congress, is believed to be responsible for internal security matters.

"Li will take the beat for political-social stability and Zhu will do the same in economic matters, although Jiang will get credit if they succeed," said Wu Guoguang, a former aide to Zhao Ziyang, deposed Communist Party secretary who fled to Hong Kong in 1989 and now teaches at the Chinese University in Hong Kong.

"In this way, Jiang has established himself as the real 'core' of the Chinese leadership to succeed Mao and Deng," Mr. Wu said.



Chinese taking a look at a miniature of the U.S. Congress building at a park in Beijing. The city is awaiting the arrival of President Bill Clinton.

Construction Takes Off at Asia's Airports

Agence France-Presse

SINGAPORE — While some smaller Asian airlines are collapsing or on the brink of bankruptcy, Asia is on an airport-building spree, raising fears among some analysts of regional overcapacity and underutilization.

Among new airport facilities being built:

- Malaysia will launch a high-tech, \$2.3 billion airport on June 30. Initial capacity will be 25 million passengers a year, double that of the current airport, with expansion provisions for up to 100 million passengers.

- A new Bangkok international airport is due to be operational in 2004. Plans have been scaled down from two runways and a capacity of 30 million passengers a year to one runway and 20 million passengers.

- China, the one bright spot in Asian aviation, is targeting 10 percent annual growth in traffic in the next 20 years, the world's highest. It is undertaking some 40 airport creation, extension or renovation projects, including one for each of the 22 provincial capitals. The biggest are two new airports in Guangzhou and Shanghai, and an extension in Beijing.

- Singapore is to build a third terminal, which would be operational around 2004, and expand cargo facilities at Changi airport, which is already reputed to be the world's best and is still far from saturated.

- Sydney Airport's \$488 million expansion is by far the largest such project under way in Australia, whose airports are now mostly privately owned. It is being upgraded for the 2000 Olympic Games.

- Taiwan's Chiang Kai-shek International Airport is building a new terminal, expected to be completed by January 2000, doubling capacity to 30 million passengers a year.

- Philippine Airlines may be in deep trouble after a crippling strike by pilots, but Manila is building a second terminal due to be finished in October, and a third terminal, the biggest, is to be completed around 2001.

- South Korea plans to complete the first phase of a new international airport west of Seoul by the end of 2000. It will handle 27 million passengers and 1.7 million tons of cargo a year.

AIRPORT: \$20 Billion Cost of Chek Lap Kok Adds Pressure on Hong Kong's Economy

Continued from Page 1

landing and parking fees, just as tourist arrivals are slumping by almost half compared with last year.

For residents of Hong Kong, experiencing the highest unemployment rate in 15 years, apples from Washington state, fish from Europe, and cheese from Australia will all cost more.

At the same time, the higher costs will make the airport less competitive with other facilities in the region, amid a boom in airport construction and expansion in China, Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand.

"We are raising costs by 30 percent at Chek Lap Kok," to 1.40 Hong Kong dollars (18 cents) per kilogram, said Anthony Charter, managing director at Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Ltd.,

the monopoly freight handler at Kai Tak airport, but which will soon face competition from an another handler when the new airport opens.

"It's certainly the most expensive facility on a per-square-foot basis in Asia, and there aren't too many places in the world as expensive as they are at this airport," said Ross Allen, operations director for DHL Worldwide Express.

DHL will try not to increase its rates because of the new airport, hoping that having its own handling facility will compensate for the higher landing fees. Like most shippers using Chek Lap Kok, DHL is counting on higher volume and greater efficiency to keep costs down, and in the long term plans to make Hong Kong a regional hub.

Hong Kong's woes are multiplied because in addition to the greater cost of its

new airport, the territory faces greater competition from three major airports within a three-hour drive: Macau, Zhuhai and Shenzhen. These will eventually help reduce business costs for exporters, but may make it harder for Hong Kong's new airport to pay for itself.

Just as Hong Kong's freight rates and landing fees are jumping, nearby Macau airport has announced a 50 percent cut in landing fees during the slower overnight period.

That should prove cost effective for goods that are now made in the Chinese city of Zhuhai, across the border from Macau, but which are often sent by truck to Hong Kong for air shipment.

Mr. Eckes estimated that trucking costs to the new airport could rise by as much as 5 percent once the extra

distance and tolls were factored in. These expenses could have been avoided if the airport had been built on land close to the mainland Chinese border.

In addition, the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou is expected to open a new airport in two years, which like Chek Lap Kok will feature two runways. It is expected to be much cheaper to use.

President Jiang Zemin of China will officiate at an opening ceremony for the Hong Kong airport on July 2, when he receives President Bill Clinton.

On Sunday, the first run of the special railroad was beset with problems, as the scheduled 23-minute train took 48 minutes to reach the airport, repeatedly jolting to a stop, and featuring patchy air conditioning and malfunctioning video screens.

HONG KONG: Government to Halt Land Sales Amid Recession

Continued from Page 1

of Hong Kong's growth, these auctions used to draw scores of developers, who bid up the price of land to absurd levels — secure in the knowledge that they could build towering apartment blocks and sell the units for millions.

Now, though, the auctions have become dismal affairs.

As for the 2 million Hong Kong people who already own apartments, Sir Donald said the 40 percent decline in property prices was "traumatic" and that the government needed to reassure them that their investments were not worthless.

By foregoing auctions for nearly a year, Sir Donald estimated that the government would lose more than 30 billion dollars (\$3.8 billion) — swinging the government from a surplus to a rare budget deficit of 21.4 billion dollars.

Sir Donald and Mr. Tung both reaffirmed Hong Kong's determination to

continue linking the Hong Kong dollar to the U.S. dollar. But analysts said the action Monday raised questions about how much economic hardship Hong Kong was willing to endure before it devalued its currency.

Normally, in an economy with a fixed exchange rate, the government would allow external market forces to depress the price of assets such as property. That is exactly what Hong Kong did over the last six months. Unlike other Asian countries, which devalued their currencies, Hong Kong defended the dollar by raising interest rates, even though that devastated the property market.

But now, Hong Kong seems to be bowing to political pressure to ease the pain. The free-fall in property prices hammered both powerful property developers and individual home-owners. Hong Kong's newly elected legislators accused the government of being insensitive to the plight of ordinary citizens, while the tycoons twisted the arms of top officials in private meetings.

Real estate executives said the decision would restore confidence. "It's the signal that the market has been waiting for," said Nicholas Brooke, chairman of Brooke Hillier Parker, a real estate brokerage firm in Hong Kong.

But other experts said the government was engaged in an increasingly desperate struggle to ease the pressure of a "bubble economy" that burst.

"Either land prices would have had to give, or the peg would have had to go," said Jan Lee, chief economist of Hong Kong Shanghai Bank.

Mr. Lee and other economists said property prices still had further to fall before they bottomed out. And some questioned what else the government could do — short of abandoning the peg and devaluing the Hong Kong dollar — if Monday's action did not ease the burden of the economic crisis.

President Kim Dae Jung placed military units on full alert throughout the sensitive northeast region of South Korea, ordering them "to defend swiftly but carefully" against the possibility of North Korean retaliation for the capture of the submarine.

In the September 1996 incident, a North Korean submarine ran aground off the South Korean coast with 26 agents from the North. In a hunt, 24 of the crewmen were shot dead, one was captured and one escaped.

In what was probably a coincidence, North Korea, several hours before the incident on Monday, threatened to resume its nuclear program if the United States did not lift economic sanctions against the North.

North Korea is expected to protest the

KOREA: Net Snags Minsub of North, Dimming Outlook for Talks

Continued from Page 1

States Command, including the United States and South Korea, and North Korea at the truce village of Panmunjom.

The previously scheduled talks are the first on the general-level in seven years.

"This incident will definitely affect this conciliatory mood," said a South Korean broadcast commentary. "We don't understand why the North Koreans are doing this when talks are being arranged."

Adding to the puzzle was that South Korea's wealthiest industrialist, Chung Ju Yung, the 83-year-old founder of the Hyundai group, the country's largest conglomerate, is to return through Panmunjom Tuesday with three brothers and two sons after a week in the North.

North Korea is expected to protest the

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Mr. Tung announcing the new measures in Hong Kong on Monday

Continued from Page 1

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■ **U.S. Help for Nigerians**
The Nigerian regime, since
the military takeover, has increased
oil production for domestic
consumption. The press also
reports that France has

'Geraldo' Going To China for NBC

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INTERNATIONAL

Zimbabwe Land War
Opens a New FrontBy Donald G. McNeil Jr.
New York Times Service

MARONDERA, Zimbabwe — "Be very careful, please," said Richard Magorimbo Madzorera, crouching low to slip through the sharp, rusty fence without touching it. "We don't want to damage the farmer's wire."

Even though their rotten shoes are falling off them and they are living on dried corn and pumpkin leaves they carry 20 kilometers (12 miles) from home, the black squatters on Daskop Farm are being extraordinarily careful of the white owner's property.

They want the farm — they say it is their ancestral land, and can even point out a stone they say their great-grandmothers ground corn on. But right now they are not willing even to walk across one of his fallow fields.

In the endless war over land that began when whites seized the country 120 years ago and led to government promises in recent years to redistribute the land to poor farmers, a new front opened last week. Hun-

dreds of subsistence farmers from 20 villages in the Svosve communal area left the stony hills their families had been pushed into and moved onto three farms in the Marondera area. They say the Zimbabwe government's land program is going too slowly.

"We decided to take the first move," said Donald Shoniwa, 42. "We were not prepared to die from hunger."

Svosve's depleted soil is so thin that "we dodge the stones like monkeys," said Modesto Murambatsvina, 36. Carrying babies, hoes, food and blankets, they left their school-age children and hiked here. They came now, they said, so as not to miss spring planting, which begins by August.

Whites in Zimbabwe, less than 2 percent of the population, own 70 percent of the land, and for 17 years after independence, the government dithered, making unfulfilled promises about land reform.

Then, last year, with the embattled President Robert Mugabe declaring "the time has come," it suddenly published a list of 1,503 farms — half the country's export-producing acreage — that it said it intended to seize without payment.

An international outcry ensued, the currency plummeted and farmers asserted that cabinet ministers were plotting to steal their best farms for retirement villas.

Since then, things have calmed down. The government, farmers and international donors are talking. About 200 farms available for sale were found, said David Hasluck, executive director of the largely white Commercial Farmers Union, and about \$800 million in grants and loans from donors and banks has been offered on the conditions that the land is paid for, that it goes to



Squatters on a white farm designated by the Zimbabwe government for resettlement by blacks.

poor people and that they are settled, not just dumped.

But so far, not a single farm has been bought, or even assessed, Mr. Hasluck said. "Time is short, and the government doesn't have focus."

For the people of Svosve, time ran out. They said they picked Daskop, Homepark and Igava farms from the government's list, and are asking for parts that are not being used.

"We don't want to displace the farmer," said Frederick Hwengere, 30. "We want to share equally with him."

Daskop is an obviously well-run farm with a big irrigation pond, a husking plant, fields of seed corn growing under plastic tents and cattle fattening on watered grass. The squatters are living on a distant corner, keeping to themselves.

There has been no trouble, said Shaun David, the farm manager, and he has been told by the owner to leave the squatters alone.

Igava Farm next door had been listed for seizure, Mr. Hasluck said, and was then offered for sale to the government.

"It's one of the best in the area," he said, with huts, a clinic, a school and a butchery, all built for its workers, on the land.

It was offered, he said, because the owners — the same extended family owns several farms in the area — knew the Svosve ancestral graves were on it.

"They don't want to go up against people on tradition like that," Mr. Hasluck said.

The owners said they would use the sale proceeds to build new hous-

ing and schools on their remaining farms, he said.

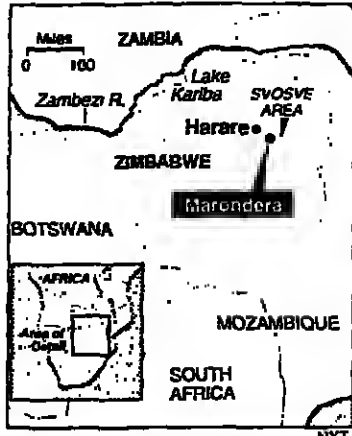
Exactly what the government will do is not known yet.

On Sunday night, state television reported that the minister of land thought he had convinced the squatters to go home until the government can resettle them at its own pace.

The squatters say the government has broken simple promises, like handouts of seed corn, and among their leaders are veterans of the 1980s war against white rule, whose association has recently become so militant that it clashed with its former commander, Mr. Mugabe.

If the squatters refuse to leave, the police may be asked to move them.

"We don't think we can retreat," said Abraham Mpunga, 30. "We can't leave this place."



BRIEFLY

Egypt Allows Hamas Cleric
To Make the Transit to Gaza

CAIRO — Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, arrived here Monday from Sudan on his way to the Gaza Strip, officials said.

Sheikh Yassin, his son and an aide had waited more than two weeks in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital, after Egypt denied them entry visas.

Egypt was reportedly waiting until Israel officially announced that they would let the Hamas leader return to Gaza.

But Thursday, the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum informed Sheikh Yassin that he would be granted permission to travel to Egypt. It was not clear what prompted Egypt's change of mind since Israel has not announced any decision for his return.

He is expected to stay in Cairo for two days to receive medical treatment before he travels to Gaza, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. (AP)

Lull in Guinea-Bissau Fighting

MPAK, Senegal — Senegal has begun shipping home its dead from Guinea-Bissau, where the embattled capital was spared overnight from the wholesale shelling that has typified its two-week-old conflict.

Only sporadic gunfire crackled through the northern outskirts of Guinea-Bissau's capital, near the airport where the country's breakaway military faction has dug in to hold off loyalist forces, a Senegalese military commander said Monday.

The bodies of several Senegalese troops, fighting on behalf of President Joao Bernardo Vieira, were flown to the southern town of Ziguinchor over the weekend, said a statement from Senegal's military command in the capital, Dakar. No exact body count was given. (AP)

For the Record

An Italian priest known for his work with the poor was gunned down in the slum in the southern Brazilian city of Sao Bernardo do Campo, where he lived, the police said Monday. The Reverend Leo Commissari, 56, was found dead Saturday with gunshot wounds to the chest and neck. (AP)

Female Circumcision: A Village Issue

By Vivienne Walt
Special to the Herald Tribune

DIABOUGOU, Senegal — Aissa Tou Sarr thought she would never see that moment. The old Muslim priest had walked for days in his rubber thongs and white robe, arriving here late last year to urge the community to stop Miss Sarr from doing her life's work: cutting off the genitals of young girls.

"In a village where people were so shocked and shocked in anger," Miss Sarr said, "this was our tradition."

Miss Sarr was about to join a movement that has gusted through Senegalese villages in the last year. Village after village has declared an end to female circumcision, in which a girl's clitoris, and sometimes the inner and outer vaginal lips, are removed. The practice is widespread in large areas of Africa.

Miss Sarr, in her 50s, had been the ritual circumciser for the village for decades, using a razor blade to cut about 200 girls every rainy season. She learned the trade from her grandmother, who had circumcised her at 15, and in turn, had excised the genitals of her daughters, grand-daughters and great-granddaughters.

Circumcision has provided her with a decent living: about \$8.30, free lunch, and a bar of soap for each operation. "I couldn't stop thinking, 'How am I going to take care of my family? What am I going to do?'"

After weeks of bitter argument, the villagers gathered in February, and vowed never again to circumcise their girls. A centuries-old tradition was dead within minutes.

Since July 1997, 29 Senegalese communities have declared an end to female circumcision, and begun pressing others to join them.

About 130 million African women in

28 countries are circumcised, and thousands die each year as a result, in childbirth, or from infections and hemorrhaging, according to the World Health Organization.

Yet, despite the outraged arguments from judges and numerous officials that cutting off genitals violates girls' rights, Western exhortations have had little effect in Africa. In fact, they have often been met with defensive hostility by Africans, millions of whom believe the tradition is required not only by Islam, but by hygiene and to encourage appropriate sexual behavior, too.

In Senegal, a West African nation with barely 8 million people, one education program is having dramatic success.

But now, in this small West African country, with barely 8 million people, one education program is having dramatic success.

Ending female circumcision was not on the agenda 10 years ago, when Molly Melching, an American, founded the Tostan organization. Ms. Melching, who has lived in Senegal since she arrived in 1975 as an exchange student, designed an intensive literacy and skills training program, funded largely by Unicef, built around group discussions.

In several villages last month, people described how Tostan's classes gradually made them begin challenging their most fundamental beliefs.

Rather than confront head-on such issues as circumcision, Tostan — which means "breakthrough" in the national language, Wolof — took several months before even broaching the subject of women's health.

"We never spoke about sexuality,"

Ms. Melching said. "We only spoke about health, and rights."

Villagers say months of discussing infections, childbirth and sexual pain, inevitably led them to question circumcision, and so to discuss subjects almost never mentioned in public before.

Making a political issue of genital mutilation, she said, or declaring it a barbaric act, does not convince many Africans.

"These women really love their children," Ms. Melching said, adding that many Africans counter Western indignation by likening the pain of circumcision to Western women suffering face-lifts. While Ms. Melching stresses human-rights violations, the health risks are what really hit home. "That's something everyone gets: without health, they can't do anything."

Ms. Melching said Western organizations too often hoped to persuade individual Africans to abandon female circumcision, without understanding that such independence could leave an African woman with no husband to marry, and a family subjected to scorn or ostracism.

Demba Diawara, the priest who arrived in Diabougou to argue against circumcision, said, "Even if you learn something is bad, if it's your tradition, you can't just get up and stop it."

Even within villages that have vowed to stop circumcision, it has been a hard battle. In Malicounda, a village of 3,000 people some 90 kilometers south-east of the capital, Dakar, women argued bitterly with men, who feared that their public renunciation of circumcision would deeply embarrass them.

"We would not back down," said Maimouna Traore, 60, who heads Malicounda's women's organization.

She told the village men that "when the drum beat changes, the dance has to change, too."

German Who Leaped
To Freedom Is Suicide

The Associated Press

INGOLSTADT, Germany — It is one of the best-known images of the Cold War: An East German soldier, his head bowed and his arms spread, leaping to freedom over a tangle of barbed wire that would soon become the Berlin Wall.

Thirty-seven years after his famous flight to the West, the former soldier, Conrad Schumann, has committed suicide. His wife discovered his body Saturday hanging from a tree near his home in Kipfenberg, a village outside the southern town of Ingolstadt.

The motive for the 56-year-old man's suicide was not known.

Mr. Schumann fled East Berlin on Aug. 15, 1961, two days after East German leaders ordered construction of the Berlin Wall to prevent a hemorrhage of people fleeing the Communist state.

The famous photograph captures the 19-year-old soldier, his head bowed, just as he clears the coil of barbed wire that served as temporary barrier before a concrete wall was built to replace it.

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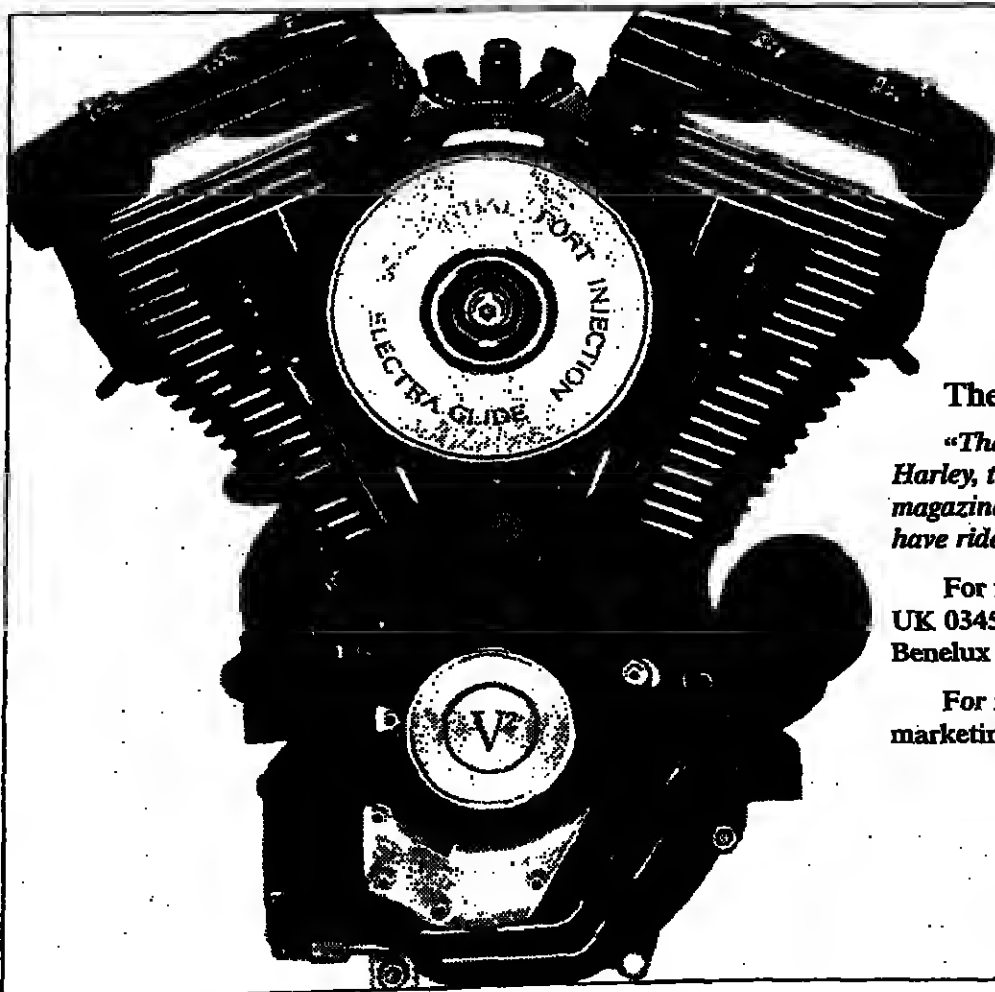
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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Warring in Colombia

Washington's growing involvement in a brutal Latin American guerrilla war echoes the opening stages of U.S. intervention in the conflict in El Salvador in the 1980s. Diana Jean Schemo and Tim Golden reported in The New York Times this month that much of the aid the Pentagon is giving Colombia's military to fight cocaine is being used instead to fight guerrillas. U.S. special forces trainees work in Colombia teaching the military such skills as jungle maneuvering and psychological operations. While the level of support is far below U.S. aid to the Salvadoran military in the 1980s, the administration is wisely considering an increase.

As in El Salvador, U.S. aid is going to an abusive and corrupt army fighting vicious Marxist guerrillas. The guerrillas kill politicians and kidnap Americans. The military has strong ties to paramilitary death squads, which massacre peasants and murder human rights workers and left-wing politicians. Last year, 10 people a day died in political murders. Seventy percent of the killings were attributed to soldiers or paramilitaries.

Support for the army also undermines Colombia's precarious civilian institutions. The military is defying a constitutional court ruling to reform its justice system. Generals have openly refused to obey presidential orders relating to peace.

Advocates of increased military aid and training, who mainly work in the

Pentagon, contend that Colombia's soldiers need light infantry training and equipment and other skills that can be used against any foe. They and the White House drug office call the insurgents "narco-guerrillas" and argue that the battles against drugs and against guerrillas cannot be separated. But training will take years to make a difference, and Colombia's military has often rejected useful advice in the past.

The narco-guerrilla connection is disputed by many in the Colombian government and the U.S. State Department, who call it a label invented by the Colombian military to allow them to use the aid to fight guerrillas. Myles Frechette, the U.S. ambassador to Colombia until the end of 1997, publicly criticized the term, and U.S. intelligence services in 1996 concluded that the term was far overblown. Ironically, there may be strong ties between the paramilitaries and the traffickers. Colombia's investigative police say Carlos Castaño, a top paramilitary leader, heads a drug cartel.

As in El Salvador, peace talks are the only solution to a civil war that neither side can win. Colombians overwhelmingly endorsed talks in a referendum last year, both candidates in the presidential runoff election backed them, and previously recalcitrant guerrillas are showing interest. Washington can best support the talks by terminating its aid to a military that has undermined them.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Solution for Forests

The world's forests have been under siege since the turn of the century, but this year has been calamitous. In Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Central America, Africa and Indonesia, fires have destroyed some 16 million forested hectares (40 million acres). The easy explanation is El Niño, a perverse weather system that has flooded some regions but left others bone dry. But the main culprit, as always, is human activity, chiefly logging, mining and agriculture, which dries out the forest by stripping it bare of trees, leaving even humid tropical rain forests vulnerable to fire. For that reason, the fires are likely to recur, with or without El Niño, unless something is done to curb mankind's insatiable appetite for wood.

In that context, there was a small ray of hope in the announcement this month that Suriname had decided to give permanent protection to 1.6 million hectares of untouched tropical forests, about one-tenth of the entire country. Suriname reached its decision at the urging of Conservation International, an American environmental group that has set up a private trust fund to help it manage the area. The group became actively involved in Suriname several years ago, when Asian timber interests, having pretty much stripped their own countries of marketable hardwoods, sought timber rights on 4.5 million hectares of Suriname's forests. It rejected that deal, and has now put 1.6 million of these hectares out of reach.

What makes this decision so heartening is that Suriname is a poor country that might normally have jumped at the quick profits promised by foreign logging interests. Far richer nations, like Brazil, have been unable to resist these blandishments, and Asian timber interests are even now burrowing deeper into the Amazon rain forest. At the other end of the economic scale, Guyana, Suriname's desolate neighbor, has opened up two-thirds of its forest mass to foreign companies.

Suriname chose the long-term economic value of forests over short-term revenues from logging and other resource-depleting activities. It hopes over time to make money from tourism generated by the forest and its spectacular animal life, from non-timber forest products like tannins and resins, and from "bioprospecting"—the search for medicines among forest plants. The U.S. National Institutes of Health and big pharmaceutical companies like Bristol-Myers Squibb are already engaged in this search.

This avenue has been left unexplored by most of the world's governments, which own 80 percent of the world's forests and which as a rule cannot see beyond the next truckload of mahogany. The lure of short-term gain is also the main reason why various international agreements, including the nonbinding "forest principles" adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, have had zero impact.

The larger point is that a living forest is worth more than a dead forest, locally and globally. Healthy forests prevent erosion and water pollution. They also act as a natural "sink" for the carbon-based gases that contribute to global warming, and, perhaps most important, they harbor at least half of all plant and animal species, with enormous untapped benefits for human health.

More than half of the world's original tropical forests have disappeared, mostly in this century. At present rates of destruction, half of what is left could vanish in the next 50 years.

This depressing prospect has not, however, inspired the wealthier nations to act constructively. One of the few tangible products of the 1992 Earth Summit was the Global Environmental Facility, a multilateral body designed to persuade poor countries to hang on to their natural assets, rain forests included. But the United States, which pledged \$435 million over five years, is \$200 million in arrears.

The task of saving the forests has thus been left to private conservation groups, whose resources are limited. The fact that one of these groups and one small country have joined to save 1.6 million hectares might shame Western governments into broader action.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Other Comment

On the Ground in Kosovo

Unfortunately, it is unlikely that a few, or even many, bombs would be enough. Armed intervention, if it were to work, would also require specifying exactly what is wanted of the Serbs: an end to repression in Kosovo and the restoration of its autonomy, preferably with the handing over to Serbia of the Serbs' holy places.

It would be accompanied by a vow that the West would not support the rebels seeking to split Kosovo from Serbia, nor recognize a self-proclaimed "independent" Kosovo.

At the same time the West should do what it could to stabilize Macedonia (offer aid in return for decent treatment of the ethnic Albanians). But even this would probably be too little if the intervention were not ready to get involved on the ground, as well as in the air, to keep the peace.

—The Economist (London).

A Child's Only Right

In my view, children have only one right, to be protected—and, if you can call it a right, to be loved. I feel radically opposed to all those who demand more rights for the child. The notion of rights does not exist without duties as counterpart. I never hear people talk about duties. This is an absurd and deplorable imbalance.

—Elizabeth Badinter, commenting in Ouest-France (Rennes).

Japan Can Be the No. 1 Problem or the Solution

By Kenneth S. Courtis

TOKYO—Not since the 1930s has Japan been in such dangerous isolation. The refusal of the country's leadership to adopt the difficult measures required to resolve the financial weaknesses that cripple its economy is raising risk levels around the world.

As the capital base of Japanese banks shrivels, a vicious credit squeeze is starting to asphyxiate increasing portions of the domestic economy. This has the potential to affect the rest of the world because Japan controls a third of total global savings.

Japan's economy is 10 times larger than China's. Rather than the locomotive pulling the rest of Asia ahead, its titanic economy could pull the rest of an already deeply troubled region under.

This was background to the meeting this past weekend in Tokyo at which the Group of Seven leading industrial powers joined Asian countries in an effort to assist Japan's leadership to make the critical decisions needed to change course before the country careens into a financial iceberg. Despite

the international pressure, it is by no means certain that Tokyo will act.

The first priority is to recapitalize the financial system. The authorities must establish a set of balance sheet criteria for all banks and other financial institutions to meet. Those unable to do so must be closed, in a way which protects depositors and creditors but allows the government to take over the bad debts, sell them down, and write off what is left. That was how the United States resolved its savings and loan crisis.

The second priority is to increase domestic demand. The best, surest, quickest way to do that would be to make tax cuts permanent. The government should announce a reduction of personal tax rates totaling 15 percent over five years. At the same time, it should reduce the corporate tax rate to the average for the rest of the Group of Seven economies.

The third priority is a credible pro-

gram of deregulation to help stimulate the economy. It must start immediately, not sometime in the next decade. At present, consumer spending represents only 56 percent of Japan's GNP, against approximately 64 percent in Europe and 69 percent in the United States.

America overconsumes and saves far too little. That is one of the major flaws in its "Goldilocks" economy—it is financed with other people's money. Japan, by contrast, underconsumes, largely as a result of straitjacket regulation that stifles demand.

Some Japanese critics assert that such policies would be ruinous for an economy with a deficit that is already too large. But if Japan's assets are taken into account, its net debt level is far below the average for the rest of the Group of Seven.

Money is not Japan's problem. Freeing up that money requires political will. A determination to use it for other than pork barrel politics is the problem. The state has vast assets that could be privatized. They could then be run

much more efficiently and turned into profitable, job-generating enterprises. A second source of funds to pay for the needed reform policies would come through the new and sustainable economic expansion that the deregulation and tax cuts would create.

The stakes are very high. If Japan does not quickly chart a bold course, it is very unlikely that the yen, and thus the other economies of East Asia, can be stabilized. That would leave China with little option but to devalue in a desperate, if futile, move of self-protection. A competitive downward spiral in East Asian currencies could drag down financial markets around the world.

Japan has a choice. It can either be the No. 1 problem or the solution. This will be on the agenda when the U.S. and Chinese president meet this week.

The writer is strategist and chief economist for Asia-Pacific in the Tokyo office of the Deutsche Bank Group. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Clinton in China: Doing Things Mostly Beijing's Way?

By Richard Halloran

BEIJING—In preparing to receive Bill Clinton, Chinese authorities have outmaneuvered the White House on several points. Will the Chinese similarly have the upper hand when the critical issues of Tiananmen, Taiwan and trade are discussed?

American, Chinese, Japanese and Taiwanese political observers suggest that the White House has acquired because no one in the administration's top level has had much experience in negotiating with China. Said a Chinese scholar, "The Clinton people are not aware of how the Chinese will manipulate this visit. They don't have a clue."

Sighed an American official with long experience in Asia: "Clinton's going to kowtow all over Beijing."

American business executives in Beijing, initially eager to take part in the visit, say they are backing away now because they fear that the president will agree to a deal that will come under critical scrutiny in Asia and the United States.

An assessment of traps awaiting Mr. Clinton in China can be pieced together from officials and private analysts.

The Chinese, for whom symbolism is all-important, persuaded Mr. Clinton to move his trip forward from November to June, the anniversary month of the Tiananmen episode in which the Chinese army killed uncounted hundreds of democratic activists in 1989.

The Chinese plan to have Mr. Clinton's appearance in Tiananmen Square help to bring symbolic closure to that sorry chapter in China's history.

At first the White House said he could not go before the November midterm elections. Then political heat got turned up by potential scandals, and White House officials arranged to get him out of Washington in March to Africa, in April to Latin America, in May to Europe, and now in June to China.

The Chinese demanded that

the president come directly from Washington to China and return home without stopping in Japan, which is supposedly the key ally of the United States in Asia. Most U.S. presidents have stopped in Tokyo on visits to Asia for the past 25 years.

Clinton officials said the president had planned to stop over in Tokyo on this trip. The Chinese insisted that because President Jiang went directly to America and back last year, Mr. Clinton should do the same.

The Chinese have induced Mr. Clinton to spend nine days in China, far more time than seasoned diplomats can remember a U.S. president taking for a visit before. President Jiang Zemin spent the same time in

America last fall, and Mr. Clinton's visit is intended to show that he considers Mr. Jiang to be his equal.

When Mr. Clinton visits Hong Kong, he will not have a separate meeting with Martin Lee, in deference to Chinese wishes. Mr. Lee and 19 other democrats recently won election to the Hong Kong legislature dominated by Beijing.

The Indian and Pakistani nuclear explosions, which have drawn worldwide criticism, have been added to the agenda, much to China's pleasure.

Pakistan is closely allied with Beijing, and Mr. Clinton risks being seen as lining up with autocratic China and Pakistan against democratic India.

Americans experienced in Asia express concern over how Mr. Clinton's visit will be seen in Japan and the rest of Asia. They fear that he will serve Beijing's crusade to revive the concept of the Middle Kingdom, in which China is Asia's dominant power.

Not that President Jiang will have a free hand with Mr. Clinton. The Chinese leader must quell a raging debate between leaders of the People's Liberation Army, who demand that China confront the United States, and the foreign and economic ministries, which see good relations with America to be in China's interest.

Mr. Jiang cannot afford to anger senior military officers, who hold the key to power in Beijing and take a hard line on

Taiwan. Military leaders have called Chinese diplomats "traitors" for what they consider a soft attitude toward the United States.

So Mr. Clinton can expect tough words about Taiwan. Chinese leaders have said repeatedly that the future of Taiwan is the most important core issue in relations between China and the United States.

Most Americans appear to agree that good relations with China are in the U.S. national interest. The question is whether Mr. Clinton is going about it in the right way.

The writer, a former correspondent in Asia for The New York Times, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Taiwan Has Cause to Worry About a Trend

By Philip Bowring

TAIPEI—Taiwan is concerned about the consequences of Bill Clinton's visit to China. The worry is not so much about specifics as about the trend of U.S. policy revealed in the run-up to the visit.

Earlier there was real anxiety that Presidents Clinton and Jiang Zemin would sign a formal communiqué that would further downgrade Taiwan's status, committing Washington more closely to Beijing's views and perhaps jeopardizing future arms sales to Taiwan. Taiwan has now been assured that there will be no such communiqué.

The United States and China are now focused on trying to reach agreement on much more limited goals, primarily related to strategic weapons. But the momentum toward the dreaded communiqué may have been broken as much by politics in Washington as by consideration of where U.S. commitment to Taiwan stands in relation to other U.S. interests. The row about guidance systems and campaign contributions may have

been a lucky break, but that is hardly reassuring for Taiwan.

To improve relations with China is clearly a legitimate U.S. goal. One can argue that China has so far got the better of the bargain, on the trade front (\$40 billion surplus), and in trade-offs on issues including rocket technology sales. But the goal is far enough.

So, too, is the U.S. hope that improved ties will help avert a deterioration in cross-strait relations to 1996 crisis levels. Most in Taiwan, across the political spectrum, share this hope.

But the urge to please and to praise Beijing almost regardless of America's other Asian interests is troubling. It was seen on the Indian and Pakistani nuclear test issue.

It surfaced again last week with the U.S. decision to intervene in currency markets, mainly at Beijing's behest. The intervention, together with praise for China for maintaining a fixed exchange rate, was at

odds with free market doctrines preached by the U.S. Treasury elsewhere in Asia.

These are not isolated instances. They are part of a pattern, reflected in much writing by U.S. sinologists, that Beijing deserves "rewards" for its good behavior.

This would not matter much if policy change toward Taiwan were not one of the "rewards" that Beijing expects the United States to offer.

Beijing's assumptions about the absolute rightness of its position over Taiwan have led Washington itself to adopt an increasingly defensive stance. Taiwan has become a nuisance, a barrier to closer ties with the Chinese military, an obstacle to U.S. companies seeking to capture the mainland market.

The United States at times appears to have shifted from comfort with the status quo over Taiwan to supporting a solution of the problem, although that is clearly impossible in the foreseeable future if Taiwanese are to have a say in the matter.

The status quo works. It allows avoidance of decision on the dangerous and divisive issue of independence. All three mainstream political parties in Taiwan, whether they are fervently for independence or unification or simply want the status quo regardless of the name, agree on one thing: that the now democratic political entity in Taiwan has the right to determine its own future relations with Beijing.

The notion of sovereignty is not contrary to belief in "one China." There is no necessary conflict between U.S. diplomatic backing for "one China" and the democratic principle of support for the freedom of the Taiwanese to choose. But people in Taiwan note the

growing suggestions that Taiwan "accept the reality" of eventual reunification.

It is argued by outsiders that Taiwan is already part of Great China and must accept the political consequences. In fact, Taiwan's dependence on the mainland is exaggerated.

Although 23 percent of exports go there, roughly three-quarters of those are components for exports by Taiwanese-operated factories in third markets. The percentage of exports to the mainland has anyway been static for five years. Taiwan's economy is as closely integrated with California as with the mainland, and as a result is currently more stable than any other in the region.

Economic realities notwithstanding, there is a fear of U.S. political pressure on a matter which Taiwanese believe is between them and the mainland. The greater the importance that the United States attaches to relations with Beijing, the more they worry that Taiwan is being treated as a pawn.

This may be exaggerated. U.S. support for Taiwan was clear enough in 1996, and since then new U.S. military arrangements, notably with Japan, have underscored America's broader strategic commitments in the region. A superficially conciliatory attitude toward Beijing, especially on economic and military issues, might help contain nationalist pressures, especially from the military.

A balanced and sophisticated U.S. view of Beijing is required. Taipei in the past has been partly to blame for the Manichaean contest between fanatics and demagogues of China in Washington.

Maybe Taiwan just has to wait for the pendulum to swing back. But for the moment its worries are real.

International Herald Tribune.

Putting It Off Doesn't Help Britain

By Roy Denman

BRUSSELS—Tony Blair claimed last week at the end of the European Council meeting in Cardiff that it had marked a "transformation in our relations with Europe."

This was not a judgment universally accepted.

One view, expressed in this newspaper last Wednesday, is that Britain's six-month presidency of the European Union has been "jackhammer and inefficient."

The European Parliament has withheld its customary vote of thanks to the presiding nation.

At the start of the British presidency, Prime Minister Blair visited Washington.

Without consulting his EU partners, he endorsed every detail of U.S. policy toward the Gulf. He followed this at the Birmingham summit of the Group of Seven by presenting himself to his European colleagues as Bill Clinton's best friend.

In early May, at the Brussels summit to confirm the launch next year of the single currency, he was in the ironic position of presiding over the decision to exclude Britain from the most important advance in European integration since the signing of the Treaty of Rome 41 years ago.

The meeting was widely regarded as badly prepared and handled. Several European leaders were openly critical. Gordon Brown, chancellor of the Exchequer, seemed convinced that he would be able to attend meetings of the finance ministers of the Euro 11. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French finance minister,

agreed that "Mr Brown will be there." He added, with a smile, "Now and again for 10 minutes."

So it turned out. On June 4, at the first meeting of the group, Mr. Brown was soon asked to leave. Britain has excluded itself from what will rapidly become the economic governance of Europe.

At the Cardiff summit, where hard decisions were deferred, Mr. Blair concentrated on a populist version of the theme of institutional reform. There is certainly a case. A Europe built for six countries needs to be changed to meet the requirements of a future Europe of 25. But this should be decided by rational debate, not with Euro-bashing.

A second Blair approach was to blow hot and cold, leaving the spin doctors to blow cold the next day.

The test of Britain's commitment to Europe will be the referendum, long promised, in the euro. It is misleading to think that time will ease this problem.

A British journalist, Allan Massie, recently pointed out that in the last 25 years Britain has become more internationalist but less European. The young have rediscovered enthusiasm for the cinema, but it is American movies that they watch and talk about, not the French and Italian films that used to be all the rage.

One of the main mass circulation newspapers used to have correspondents all over

Europe, but now has virtually none. Even the broadsheets scarcely mention Europe except when neo-Nazi riot or French truck drivers strike.

One British interest in Europe, of a sort, certainly remains. Every major soccer match on the Continent against a British team brings an invasion of football hooligans wrapped in Union Jacks, beseeched lager louts jostling through the night, a phenomenon that is not equaled elsewhere in Europe.

There are already many in the Euro-11 who doubt the advantage of burdening themselves by adding to their number a country so strictly anti-European, which is opposed to any further political integration and seems obsessed by copying up to the United States.

Exchange rate speculation will make an isolated sterling volatile, but Britain's partners will insist on a period of exchange rate stability before entry. This will arouse a storm of protest in London. Those who oppose British entry will have a powerful weapon.

The longer Mr. Blair delays the referendum, the more hazardous Britain's future will be. His delay has to do with fear of losing the support of Rupert Murdoch's press and thus putting at risk victory in the next election. The British people deserve better than that.

The writer is a former representative of the European Commission in Washington. He contributed this comment to the Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Herald 'Enemy'

MADRID—In the absence of war news the papers here are trying to excite public opinion against the Herald. It is possible that the Government may expel all American correspondents. The "Heraldo," one of the most widely circulated evening papers, has a leading article warning its readers against the Herald. "It is generally more trustworthy than other Yankee dailies," it says. "Nevertheless, the New York Herald is one of our enemies. We must always bear this in mind in reading its news. New York and Washington are big manufacturing cities of lies."

1923: World Court

LONDON—Many important supporters of the League of Nations here refused to comment today (June 22) on the speech of President Harding at St. Louis last night, in which he

advocated a World Court divorced from the League of Nations. Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, however, declared that the building up of a system of world law is necessary to bring about the cooperation of all nations.

1948: Woman Wins

PORTLAND—A woman has been chosen by the Republican party in Maine as one of its two candidates for the Senate. Early this morning (June 22), Representative Margaret Chase Smith was leading by almost two to one in the returns from the party's primary elections, and Governor Horace Aldrich, her rival for the Republican nomination, conceded that he had a second woman to be elected to the Senate of the United States.

Herald Tribune

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92211 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
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Internet address: <http://www.ihb.com> E-Mail: ihb@ihb.com
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 5 Canterbury Rd., Singapore 119800. Tel: (65) 472-7768. Fax: (65) 274-2334
Mgr. Dir. Asia: Terry Dwyer, 50 Gloucester Rd., Hong Kong. Tel: 852-3022-1185. Fax: 852-3022-1190
Gen. Mgr. Germany: T. Schuler-Freudinger, 11, 0823 Frankfurt. Tel: +49 69 771259-0. Fax: +49 69 771259-20
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OPINION/LETTERS

Fitting Memorial to Goldwater: Direct Debate

By Martin Schram

WASHINGTON — True to the ultimate rite of passage, Americans paused to pay tribute to the passing of Barry Goldwater with several days of heartfelt tributes and remembrances. Then we plunged right back into the here and now, the trials and tribulations of today.

But conservatives, liberals and middle-roads can create a unique living memorial to Mr. Goldwater by which present and future generations can celebrate this uncommonly honest and direct man.

We can create a new, permanent institution of politics — a form of presidential election debates that could bring more civility to our campaigns. And we could designate it as an enduring memorial to the two politicians who actually intended to use it in a presidential campaign.

Here's the Kennedy-Goldwater Memorial Presidential Debates. The idea for this debate series was born in a little-remembered agreement between President John F. Kennedy and Senator Goldwater.

The two were ideological foes who had developed a great professional respect and personal fondness for one another since going to the Senate together in 1953.

When Mr. Kennedy was in the White House, the two men figured they would be running against each other for president in 1964. It was a prospect each relished, politically

and personally. And so they agreed that they would campaign together, at least on occasion, traveling from city to city, perhaps on the same airplane or train, and at each stop would debate the issues.

Just the two of them on a stage. No media moderators or interlocutors

"It seems a pipe dream in looking at some of today's negative campaigning."

artificially setting agendas, with their choices of questions, becoming players in the process they are supposed to be merely chronicling. Instead, one candidate would begin with a topic of his choosing, the other would respond, and the debate, or discussion, would be under way.

But of course that was the campaign that never happened. And Mr. Goldwater's relationship with Mr. Kennedy's successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, was very different. It was largely characterized by personal dislike and professional disrespect.

We did not learn of the Kennedy-Goldwater campaign agreement

until years later, when Mr. Goldwater recounted it on several occasions.

"When Jack Kennedy died, I lost all interest in running," Mr. Goldwater said in an interview in the late 1970s with a political columnist, Steve Neale, now with the Chicago Sun-Times. "The country wasn't ready for three presidents in three and a half years. And I knew Johnson would not run an honest campaign like Kennedy. Kennedy and I used to talk about running against each other. We came to a tentative agreement that we would have revived the practice of the two candidates traveling together around the country and appearing on the same platform."

A decade later, Mr. Goldwater wrote about the agreement in his autobiography, published in 1988: "Kennedy and I informally agreed — it seems a pipe dream in looking at some of today's negative campaigning — that we would ride the same plane or train to several stops and debate face to face on the same platform."

He elaborated in an interview that year with William Prochnau of The Washington Post: "I would have enjoyed it very much. I even talked to him one day about using the same airplane, going to the same places. He'd get out in one place and start to debate and I'd rebut him. Then we'd turn it around in the next place. ... He liked the idea."

This format is a grand idea that has, in fact, been tried and tested with great success. "If President Kennedy and Senator Goldwater had been able to campaign in that format, it would have closely resembled the Lincoln-Douglas debates," said David Zarefsky, dean of the school of speech at Northwestern University and a leading authority on the 1858 debates between the two candidates for senator from Illinois. "As in Lincoln-Douglas, it would have been two candidates debating the issues, alternating in order at each debate, with no panel of journalists."

"If that format were followed today," he added, "I think it would be most beneficial, for the candidates and the public."

Congress could encourage such a development by enacting a bipartisan resolution urging presidential candidates to take part in at least one such weeklong series of cross-country debates. Better yet would be a weeklong series of joint appearances in September and another in October.

The Kennedy-Goldwater Memorial Debates might restore honest discourse and clarity to our election contests, vital ingredients that are largely missing in the video ad wars that dominate campaigns at all levels.

The writer, a Washington political columnist, contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

Searching for Cancers' Causes? Try Genetics and How You Live

By Brian E. Henderson and Susan Preston-Martin

LOS ANGELES — In the last 25 years, fewer since President Richard Nixon declared a war on cancer, one of the primary assumptions investigated by researchers has been that cancer is "caused" by some external exposure to some "unnatural" element.

It was a theory supported, in an indirect way, by overwhelming scientific evidence that smoking leads to lung cancer or sun exposure leads to melanoma.

It is a perception that continues to live, in the form of beliefs that "leading scientists" regard environmental toxins as a significant cause of rising cancer rates in the developed world.

Yet despite an enormous number of studies conducted over the past three decades examining many possible putative relationships between environmental factors and cancer,

increasing beyond what might be expected from changes in diagnostic technology like magnetic resonance imaging.

Indeed, even if one assumes that childhood brain tumors could somehow be related to foods containing nitrates, the amount of nitrates in foods has been steadily decreasing during the same period when childhood brain tumors were increasing.

Similarly, if one assumes increased breast cancer is due to pesticides, it would follow that the agricultural heartland would boast the highest rates. Yet they are among the lowest, while urban areas where educated women delay their childbearing are among the highest, suggesting sociocultural changes that have affected women's lifetime hormone exposure are responsible.

Meanwhile, for the first time since Mr. Nixon's declaration, we are learning enough about cancer to make intelligent decisions in regard to treatment. Mortality rates, even for breast cancer, are declining. We have even reached a point of designing effective prevention, such as treating women at high risk for breast cancer with tamoxifen.

But contrary to the initial assumptions of an external cause, what most researchers are finding — and what is the foundation for the most dazzling advances in cancer — is that the majority of cancers arise from a complex set of combined factors: a genetic predisposition, internal chemistry such as hormone levels, which are often genetically predetermined, and to a certain extent lifestyle decisions that affect those predispositions.

Unfortunately, when authorities push for more study of environmental risks, the perception of this environmental problem distracts the public from the real issues in cancer such as smoking, dietary habits that are not healthy, like the consumption of excessive fat, and weight gain.

Studies have shown that the U.S. population's increasing obesity is more of a cancer risk than any environmental exposure.

Studies also have shown that women who delay childbearing until after 30, who have early menarche and fewer pregnancies, who get limited exercise, particularly in their teens and 20s, and who take estrogen replacement therapies are more at risk for breast cancer because their lifetime exposure to estrogen is greater.

Instead of throwing out a pesticide wild card, we need rational public education on the real issues in cancer.

It is a harder message, however, to say that the cause of cancer is not from an external exposure but may be from within you, your own genetic susceptibility combined with things you do like diet and exercise.

The writers are professors of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. They contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times.

MEANWHILE

few correlations have been found. From electromagnetic fields and pesticides to microwave and smog, credible studies have shown little evidence of links between environment and cancer risk.

Millions of dollars poured into researching environmental exposures in groups at highest risk — farmers and pesticide exposure, for example, or residents who live in proximity to chemical stockpiles — have found few direct links between exposures and cancer.

For example, a major study in the New England Journal of Medicine last fall by researchers from Harvard and Mount Sinai Hospital in New York found no evidence of an increased breast cancer risk among women with high levels of organochlorines from pesticides and industrial chemicals such as DDT and PCB in their blood, the chemicals most likely to pose a risk.

Likewise, studies investigating a possible link between smog and lung cancer have turned up no evidence — although they established a link between smog and asthma.

In addition, international studies of developing countries, where exposures to environmental toxins are in many cases much greater than in developed countries, find no corresponding increase in cancer rates.

Confusing the issue is the fact that even though cancer incidence overall is declining, some cancers are indeed on the rise, seemingly correlated to changing factors in the environment.

While stomach cancer, which was the No. 1 cancer in the United States 40 years ago, is now down to seventh place, the rates for endogenous hormone-related cancers like breast and prostate cancer climb.

Explaining the reason that some cancers are increasing is complicated. For example, with childhood brain tumors, measuring the absolute incidence of a rare tumor is difficult enough, and there are data suggesting that the rates of brain tumors at older ages are not

Collect Poor Countries' Debt and Return the Money in Aid

By Hans Von Sponeck

GENEVA — At its most recent annual meeting in Geneva, in March and April, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights decided to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate the effects of foreign debt burdens on development in low-income countries.

While this decision did not make the headlines, it nevertheless has considerable legal and political significance because it implies that the current debt levels of many countries may constitute a violation of the inalienable right of all people to development.

The total external debt of developing countries is close to \$2 trillion, \$250 billion of which is owed by the 41 "least developed countries."

Such nations are considered by the World Bank to be in an untenable position.

The debt crisis inherited from the 1980s continues to have serious consequences on the populations of developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South

Asia. But it also affects industrialized countries, which are missing out on opportunities for growth at a time when markets are rapidly globalizing.

Highly indebted poor countries are unable to mobilize the resources they need to break the cycle of poverty, develop and integrate into the world economy. In 1995, Mozambique spent 33 percent of its budget on servicing debt, compared with 3.3 percent on health and 7.9 percent on education. Niger's external debt amounts to nearly \$1.6 billion and, every year, two-thirds of its domestic resources are spent on debt service.

Out of 174 countries in the Human Development Index calculated by the United Nations Development Program, Mozambique is ranked 166 and Niger 173. Life expectancy in these two countries is under 47 years, compared with 80 years in Canada and France, the two highest-ranked countries.

The UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, has described debt as "a millstone around the neck of Africa" that holds back development and economic growth.

The problem of debt must not be allowed to persist. In the current context of globalization, it must be solved with the commitment of the entire international community.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank play a crucial role in the treatment of foreign debt. For a number of years, these two institutions have received more money than they have lent to countries severely burdened by debt, and they are usually the first creditors to be repaid. Surely this is a dysfunction in the economic metabolism.

Debts must be rescheduled so that poor countries are left not just with the means for subsistence, but with sufficient revenue to return to growth. No court in an industrialized country would

exact from an individual debtor or installments so large that he or she could no longer enjoy a decent standard of living. It is disgraceful that the most privileged countries could deny the populations of poor countries a right as fundamental as social development. It is imperative that the terms of repayment be adjusted.

In many cases, the overall amount of debt should be reduced or even eliminated. Creditor countries could draw inspiration from the criteria applied by the London Agreement of 1953 to Germany's accumulated debt from the two world wars. Germany's economic survival was put ahead of the full repayment of its debt, enabling the nation to take part in its own development or, in this case, its own reconstruction.

The treaty was intended to "neither dislocate the German economy through undesirable effects on the internal financial situation, nor unduly drain existing potential or foreign exchange resources, and it should not add appreciably to the financial burden." Surely this is a model that could be emulated today.

The partial or total cancellation of debt must also be detached from all political and economic conditions. Instead, debtor countries should undertake to carry out reforms guaranteeing transparency and accountability in the management and administration of their economies.

Opponents of partial or total debt forgiveness argue that it would amount to rewarding poor management practices. A solution that would favor good management, while restoring the capacities and dignity of highly indebted poor countries, would be to require debtor nations to repay their remaining debt and the interest on it, on the condition that creditor

countries use the payments to finance human development policies in the debtor nations.

Lending governments that claim they are unable to increase their official development assistance, which has fallen to its lowest level in 25 years, could then include these reinvested repayments as part of their official aid budget. In doing so, they could come closer to achieving the UN target of 0.7 percent of gross national product, a goal that has been recognized for more than 20 years as a minimum.

The writer is director of the United Nations Development Program's regional bureau for Europe. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

April 9, 2011: Microsoft-Citibank-Eaton-Time Warner merges with RJR Nabisco-AHT-Archer-Daniels-Midland.

May 14, 2011: The Edible Laptop is introduced.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Bigger Jerusalem

Regarding "Israel Moves Defiantly to Expand Jerusalem," (June 22):

The decision to expand the perimeter of Jerusalem illustrates a lack of pragmatism by the Israeli cabinet. The 1967 war signified that the international community will not acknowledge land annexed by means of force or war. Consequently, the majority of the members of the United Nations have located their embassies in Tel Aviv rather than in Jerusalem, in effect voicing disapproval for Israel's lack of sensitivity.

Although the U.S. Congress voted to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem, President Bill Clinton has criticized the decision, acknowledging that the issue of Jerusalem should go untouched until the final status negotiations determine its exact standing in both an international and regional context.

Would it not be wise of Israel to refrain from provocative decisions, keeping in mind that such decisions will almost always have a direct bearing on it and the Israeli people?

Since Likud came to power, Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet have managed to tarnish any credence Israel has had by virtue of its Oslo

agreement with Palestinians and the peace treaty with Jordan.

At such a tense juncture in the Middle East process, Israel should be contemplating what the course for lunch will be rather than be thinking of dinner.

MASSOUD DERHALLY, Paris.

Israel's Security

Regarding "At 50, Nation Looks Confidently, Yet Warily, to Its Future," Special Reports, April 29:

Glenn Frankel asks of Israel: "Is it a vehicle for Jews to enter the community of nations as a normal people with allies, economic ties and diplomatic relations? Or is it a fortress with high walls and

bristling armaments designed to protect Jews by sealing them off from a hostile world?"

Well, is it located in the Mideast? Or somewhere near Luxembourg?

STEVE AMOUR, Kibbutz HaOn, Israel.

Two Faces of China

President Bill Clinton should go to China, as there is no doubt the country will be a major player in the coming century. It is, however, distressing that the problem of political freedom and free discussion in China may be worsened by his doing so.

On Sunday, China Central Television broadcast a discussion of Mr. Clinton's visit by Beijing bureau chiefs for

CNN, NPR and Time magazine.

The program was entirely in English, thus ensuring an image of open discussion to Western viewers. Although translations from English into Chinese languages are quite common, this was not done as a preventive method, no doubt, should it verge onto sensitive topics.

It is this rather naive participation by the U.S. media in China's two-faced policy — presenting one to the West, the other to its own citizens — that Mr. Clinton needs to overcome in his visit.

Perhaps a U.S.-produced broadcast of his visit in Chinese languages on China television is in order.

JOSEPH URINECK, Boston.

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INTERNATIONAL

Time Magazine to Investigate CNN Report on Poison Gas in Laos

By Lawrie Miffilin
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Doubts raised about the accuracy of a recent article that was published in Time magazine but was written by Cable News Network journalists are serious enough that Time's editors have ordered a further investigation.

The article asserted that the U.S. military dropped lethal nerve gas on a Laotian village in 1970, during the Vietnam War, as part of a secret mission to kill American defectors.

The issue of Time that appeared Monday carried a letter to readers from the managing editor, Walter Isaacson, telling them that the magazine was now doing its own reporting on the matter and would correct any mistakes or clarify any disputes in future issues.

"I trust CNN's journalistic standards," Mr. Isaacson said in an interview. "They did a story for us that was based on a lot of evidence. If some of that evidence is now suspect, that is something we plan to report to our readers, once we get to the bottom of it."

The article appeared in Time the morning after the television version of the report

was broadcast on the debut edition of a new CNN program called "Newsstand: CNN and Time," an unusual collaboration between the two news organizations, which are both owned by Time Warner Inc.

Within hours of the June 7 broadcast, CNN's report was criticized as false; the producers were accused of ignoring or suppressing evidence that undercut their poison-gas thesis, and Time's rival, Newsweek, had begun work on an article that, when published the next week, would be an attempt to rebut much of the report.

Ten days after the broadcast, CNN's own military analyst, a retired major general, resigned in protest, calling the report false and noting he was not consulted during its preparation.

CNN's own producers created some of the suspicion, by choosing not to reveal a noteworthy fact about one of their most important sources.

The accusation that sarin, a nerve gas banned by international law, was used during Operation Tailwind, code-named for the secret forays in Laos, is made most vigorously in the CNN report by two soldiers who were there for one operation in 1970, Michael Hagen and Robert Van Buskirk. But Van Buskirk told April Oliv-

er, CNN's main producer on this report, that he had repressed all memory of that day's events for 24 years, from 1974, when he had a religious awakening, until Ms. Oliver began questioning him.

Yet Ms. Oliver, who began work on the report last September, and Jack Smith, a veteran CNN producer who joined her on the project in February, decided to exclude mention of Mr. Van Buskirk's recovered-memory revelation from their report. Nor did it appear in the Time magazine article, co-authored by Ms. Oliver and Peter Arnett, the CNN correspondent on the television report.

John Stacks, an executive editor at Time who works on the Newsstand collaboration, said he had known about Mr. Van Buskirk's repressed memories of the foray, which included an incident in the Laotian village where Mr. Van Buskirk said he chased a blond American defector and presumably killed him by throwing a grenade into a hole into which the man had fled.

"April, with Jack's supervision, wrote that piece so it was her call," Mr. Stacks said.

Mr. Smith of CNN said: "My reason was I felt so strongly that he was telling us what really happened in that camp, and one

of his commando mates, Hagen, had also told us he remembers seeing that blond fellow coming toward Van Buskirk."

Mr. Stacks said he had read CNN's background briefing book, which contained transcripts of interviews, memos about off-camera interviews, and scientific research about nerve gas, and was confident of the report's accuracy. He also noted that Mr. Van Buskirk was not CNN's only source.

Two other soldiers from Operation Tailwind who appeared in the CNN report, Jim Cahy and Jay Graves, said they believed that nerve gas had been dropped. The retired admiral who was then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Thomas Moorer, now 86 years old, also appears on camera but his comments are ambiguous; Mr. Arnett's narration says that Admiral Moorer admitted off-camera that nerve gas had been used.

Beyond that, the report cites "senior American military officials" as confirming that nerve gas was used in Operation Tailwind, and Mr. Arnett, in an interview broadcast Monday on National Public Radio's "On The Media," said that CNN "can prove documentarily that it was."

Captain Eugene McCauley, the Tailwind commander that day, appears in the

CNN report but has since complained that general comments were used out of context to buttress the specific nerve-gas allegation. But CNN did use his comment, "I never, ever considered the use of lethal gas, not on any of my operations."

On the next week's edition of "Newsstand," June 14, CNN gave an update, noting that the Pentagon had ordered an investigation but had also said that the gases used in Operation Tailwind were most likely a tear gas and one used to induce vomiting. Three more soldiers from the Tailwind operation also appeared June 14, describing a gas that was "more potent than tear gas" and was called "knockout gas."

Major General Perry Smith, retired, the military analyst who resigned from CNN after seven years as a consultant, said he had contacted the soldiers interviewed for the "Newsstand" report, and several had told him that Mr. Oliver "planted" the idea that sarin had been the gas used that day in Laos, even telling one man that his commanders had lied when they told him it was tear gas.

Mr. Smith, the co-producer, speaking for himself and Ms. Oliver, flatly denied that. "We did not lead people," he said.

Russian Effort In Kosovo Proves Futile

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — Russia pressed in vain for an end to the violence in Kosovo on Monday, but heavy fighting broke out for control of two key roads in the secessionist province, where the Yugoslav Army seems to be playing an increasing role.

Six armed ethnic Albanian militants, striking into a Serbian stronghold, kidnapped three Serbs on Monday in Kosovo Polje, just outside Pristina, Serbian sources said.

The Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, appealed in Moscow to fellow members of the six-nation Contact Group to give Serbia more time to pull back its 45,000 to 50,000 security forces in Kosovo and to resume negotiations with ethnic Albanians, who outnumber Serbs in the province by 9 to 1.

A Primakov deputy, Nikolai Afanasyevsky, met in Pristina on Monday with a senior Serbian official and then with the leader of the Kosovo Albanians, Ibrahim Rugova, saying he wanted to carry out "as soon as possible" the agreement reached in Moscow last week.



Veljko Odalovic, left, the chief Serbian administrator in Kosovo, greeting Nikolai Afanasyevsky before their talks Monday in Pristina.

President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia pledged he would resume talks with Mr. Rugova, but refused to pull back his forces, saying they were battling terrorists.

The Albanians say they cannot negotiate while soldiers and policemen loyal to Mr. Milosevic crack down on the militant separatists of the Kosovo Liberation Army, in the process killing civilians and driving tens of thousands

of Albanians from their homes. Mr. Rugova's deputy, Fehmi Agani, stressed after the meeting with Mr. Afanasyevsky that the pullback was essential to any talks.

Mr. Afanasyevsky said that both sides must act. "Measures should be taken to decrease and withdraw security forces and comply with the commitment not to use force against civilians," he said. "All terrorist activities should cease."

Serbs Move Up Their Armor Kosovo Rebels, Dug In, Vow Fight to the Death

By Chris Hedges
New York Times Service

JUNIK, Yugoslavia — A half-dozen gaunt, unshaven, villagers, some clutching old hunting rifles, peered nervously around the side of a stone barn.

On the road in front of the barn, they had dumped two spiked metal tracks from an old haying machine on the cobblestones to block traffic. Another group of men, most in motley camouflage uniforms, darted behind a barricade a few meters away. They peered out from behind the pile of old planks, tires, bricks and sacks filled with dirt.

"Snipers!" hissed Shaiquer Maloku, 31, one of the villagers, warning a visitor. "Move out of the road! A man was shot and killed here two days ago by the Serbs. Come into the barn."

The rebels here in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo, fighting to carve an independent state from one of the two republics that remain in Yugoslavia, have dug trenches around villages they control. Joined by the men who remain in the villages, they have set up sandbagged roadblocks, where they politely check the documents of those who enter their "liberated zones," and they talk berocally of fighting to the death.

Many have been lulled into believing that the curtain will never close on this heady period of their revolt. Rebel leaders naively insist that they can muster enough force with their light weaponry and poorly trained volunteers to defend towns and positions against a mechanized assault by Yugoslav troops.

On the hills and roads surrounding rebel-held areas, now as much as 40 percent of the province, the government of Yugoslavia, of which Serbia is one of two remaining republics, is positioning hulking tanks. It also has sent armored personnel carriers and spider webs of green camouflage netting that mask huge howitzers as well as mortar and sniper positions.

The government troops are slowly strangling the rebel strongholds, having seized the main road between Pec and Djakovica from the insurgents over the last few days. The shattered houses along the road, many with gaping holes, speak of fierce combat.

Serbia, for its part, at times seems as oblivious as the rebels to the reality of its position, apparently ignoring the likely long-range impact of the fury provoked by its counterinsurgency sweeps, which have left more than 300 people dead and caused 80,000 people to be displaced from their homes since March.

Since these assaults began, the ethnic Albanians who make up 90 percent of the province's 2 million people have largely abandoned a tactic of peaceful resistance in their drive for independence.

Armed peasant farmers and other residents, joined by hundreds of rebels who have picked up weapons and uniforms over the border in northern Albania, are facing 50,000 government soldiers and special police.

In Junik, about 65 kilometers (40 miles) southwest of Pristina, the provincial capital, the men in the camouflage gear wear baseball caps with red patches that show the black double-headed Albanian eagle and the initials UCK, the Albanian acronym for the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army.

The long, black snout of a captured 20mm anti-aircraft canon sticks out from the little fort toward the deserted road, strewn with rocks and branches, that meanders out of the village.

Three kilometers north, on the main road that has been recaptured, a 26-year-old Ser-

bian police officer said: "The terrorists held this road for 15 days. We have taken it back."

"Anything to the left or the right of the road belongs to the terrorists," the officer added. "This is a war. We are doing what any police officer anywhere in the world would do when being attacked by armed groups — trying to stop them out and restore order."

The throaty rattle of a heavy machine gun mounted on a nearby hill interrupted the conversation.

"They shot at us," said the officer, nonplussed. "We are answering back."

The United States, in an effort to stay the hand of President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, has threatened NATO intervention unless the soldiers are withdrawn from

It increasingly appears that Mr. Milosevic is biding his time until he sees an opportune moment to strike.

the province and negotiations with a moderate ethnic Albanian leader, Ibrahim Rugova, are resumed. It increasingly appears, however, that Mr. Milosevic is biding his time until he sees an opportune moment to strike to wipe out the rebellion. That moment may not be far away, given the bickering within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization over what to do in Kosovo, with some members of the alliance, but not the United States, saying that intervention requires United Nations authorization.

But a push to wipe out the rebel zones would be likely to force the insurgents to move into the hills, to build smaller, more fluid, bands and to widen the scope of the war — perhaps bringing it into Pristina.

It would also create scores of new martyrs, the fuse that ignited the current rebellion.

It was the earlier crackdown on the ethnic Albanian separatists that led hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of ethnic Albanians who had left Kosovo seeking new opportunities to quit their jobs in Germany and Switzerland

'None of us want a war. We believe we have been given no choice. It is the only way we will be free.'

over the past several weeks and to travel to northern Albania to join the rebel movement. Any prolonged war also has the danger of drawing Albania, already a staging area and sanctuary for the rebels, and Macedonia, which also has a restive ethnic Albanian minority, into the conflict.

In Junik, Mr. Maloku, an architect wearing a green ammunition pouch strapped over his sweater and carrying an AK-47 assault rifle, stood with a half dozen of his neighbors under the peaked barn roof with its dark oak beams.

The tractors, wooden racks, buckets, empty animal stalls and faint scent of machine oil gave to the cool interior a sense of bleak peace that helped soften the signs of brutality outside. On the stucco walls of the house that faced the barn were splotch marks from shrapnel explosions and drill-like holes from sniper bullets.

"None of us want a war," he said. "We believe we have been given no choice. It is the only way we will be free."

U.S. Envoy Starts Visit to Balkans Holbrooke Meets Greek Leader to Discuss Cyprus and Kosovo Crises

The Associated Press

ATHENS — Richard Holbrooke, newly appointed to be the chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, met with Greek officials on Monday to discuss deteriorating relations with Turkey over Cyprus.

According to a government spokesman, Dimitris Reppas, the crisis in the separatist Serb province of Kosovo was also on the agenda in the talks with Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and other Greek officials.

Kosovo is also expected to be the main focus of talks between the Macedonian foreign minister, Blagoje Hadziski, and his Greek counterpart, Theodoros Pangalos, during an expected meeting Tuesday, Macedonia has a large ethnic Albanian minority in areas bordering Kosovo.

Mr. Holbrooke is expected to discuss the same issue during meetings in the Yugoslavian capital, Belgrade, later this week. He is expected to return to Athens to give a commencement address at the American College

of Greece on Friday. No statements were made after Mr. Holbrooke's meeting with Mr. Karamanlis, underlining the private nature of the American official's visit here.

But Mr. Reppas said talks would have focused on last week's crisis between Athens and Ankara after the deployment of Greek and Turkish warplanes on Cyprus.

Until his nomination to the UN post, Mr. Holbrooke was President Bill Clinton's special envoy for Cyprus. He failed to restart talks between the Greek and Turkish communities on the island.

Tensions have been on the rise in Cyprus after a decision by the Greek Cypriot government to deploy Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles on the island. Turkey has threatened to prevent the deployment, an action that could lead to a war between Greece and Turkey.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974, when Turkey invaded and occupied its northern third following an abortive Athens-backed coup by supporters of union with Greece.

BOOKS

MY HEART LAID BARE

By Joyce Carol Oates. 531 pages. \$26.95. A William Abrahams Book/Dutton.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

IN "My Heart Laid Bare," her ponderous new novel, Joyce Carol Oates returns to the landscape of genre fiction she explored with uneven success in such earlier books as "Bellevue," "A Bloodsmoor Romance" and "Mysteries of Winterthurn." This time, we are given an old-fashioned family saga, dressed up with the usual Gothic curlicues, the usual heavy-breathing prose and some added "ragtime" — esoteric pretensions.

The Licht family, we quickly learn, is a clan of con men indoctrinated in their patriarch's Nietzschean credo. "All men are our enemies, as they are strangers," Abraham Licht tells his children. Life is a Darwinian game, in his view, in which the rules are very simple: "No success without another's success. No failure without another's success. To feel another's pain is defeat. To turn the other cheek, a betrayal."

Abraham's greedy scheming drives the plot of "My Heart Laid Bare," creating a narrative that's basically a succession of con jobs within con jobs, scams piled upon scams, from fixed horse races and daring holdups to sophisticated investment setups and hokey medical treatments: a Mameian smorgasbord of confidence schemes, served up in turn-of-the-century dress and garnished with some typical Oatesian gore, including several murders and the grisly mutilation of a corpse.

The cynical me-firstism of the Lichts, however, is not merely a narrative device. It's also supposed to be a metaphor for untrammeled capitalist greed, for American selfishness and ambition. Abraham's refusal to think about the consequences of his actions mirrors Americans' penchant for living in the moment, just as his faith in the "cash value" of an idea symbolizes Americans' entrepreneurial zeal.

Even as she's pontificating in exclamation, italic-heavy prose, Oates is busy turning her characters' lives into a historical echo chamber. The Lichts are constantly running into famous historical figures (Abraham, for one, gets a job with the Harding administration and socializes with the likes of the Astors) while playing out their domestic dramas against the backdrop of huge public events like World War I, Prohibition and the stock market crash of 1929.

Oates's efforts to make the Licht family representative of the 20th century, however, severely test the limits of plausibility. Abraham's con jobs take him from Wall Street to Washington and have him dabbling in everything from psychiatry and fertility treatments to advertising and the federal surveillance of subversives. One of his sons goes west to test himself — and an unsuspecting mark — on a Teddy Roosevelt-like adventure in the wilderness. Another reinvents himself as a born-again evangelist in the South, and a third becomes a musical prodigy who plays Carnegie

Hall. One daughter becomes a wealthy matron, traveling in the smoothest social circles, while her younger sister becomes a feminist crusader with the American Birth Control League.

As if this were not enough, Oates has Abraham adopt a black child, who grows up to become an Afrocentric revolutionary, preaching a doctrine of separatism and hate in the most clichéd and racially stereotyped of terms.

For that matter, every character in "My Heart Laid Bare" comes across as a stereotype or cliché: Abraham as a maniacal patriarch, his son Harwood as a violent bully, his daughter Millie as a manipulative flirt, and so on and so on and so on.

In earlier novels like "Yon Must Remember This" and "Because It Is Bitter, and Because It Is My Heart," Oates

used her mastery of social and psychological detail to flesh out her characters' lives and situate them in a richly imagined matrix of relationships; as a result, their actions, however melodramatic, felt believable and authentic. Here, in contrast, she has substituted incident and intrigue for emotional insight, sweeping historical vistas for a carefully observed social context, and her characters' actions, consequently, feel arbitrary and contrived.

Although Oates speaks repeatedly in this book — as she so often does — of destiny and fate, the trajectory of her characters' lives feels less like the inevitable working out of familial and societal imperatives than the poorly thought-out manipulations of an author bored by her own pallid creations.

New York Times Service

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

ALEXEI Shirov, a 25-year-old Spanish (formerly Latvian) grandmaster, upset Vladimir Kramnik, a Russian grandmaster, in the World Chess Council Candidates Match, held recently in Cazorla (Jaen), Spain.

In this 10-game series against Kramnik, Shirov won two games and made seven draws for a 5 1/2-3 1/2 score.

In the deciding Game 9, Shirov demolished Kramnik's intended attack by a brilliant counter featuring a rook sacrifice. Kramnik's 3 f3 was probably played for surprise value; he had no luck in the earlier games with orthodox methods against Shirov's Gruenfeld Defense and hoped to catch him off guard with this old aggressive Alekhine move that never earned a solid reputation.

After 5...Nb6, the black center is knocked out, yet the f3 pawn makes it difficult for White to develop his minor pieces effectively.

On 7...O-O, White can go for broke with 8 f4?, yet 8...Nc6 9 d5 Na5 10 Bd4 Bg4! 11 Qd3 e5! 12 f6 Nac4 13 Qg3 h5! 14 Nf3 Qe7 15 O-O-O e5! 16 d6 Qe6 17 Bc5 Qc6 leads to strong counterchances for Black.

After 8 Qd2, it is usual for Black to

play 8...Nc6, but Shirov's 8...e5? 9 d5 c6 appropriately counterattacked the white center. It was difficult for Kramnik because an attempt to simplify by 10 O-O c5 11 Nd5 Nd5 12 Qd5 Qf6 would leave Shirov with the better opportunity for a mating attack. All the same, 10 h4, to mean anything, demanded 11 g4! and Kramnik evidently did not believe in it.

After 19...e4?, Kramnik might have tried 20 d7 immediately, but 20...e7? 21 d8 Qe2 22 Qc3 Nd5 23 Rd5 Qc6 24 Rd8 Rd8 25 Bd8 Qe2! 26 Qe8 Bf8 27 f7 Kg7 28 Ba5 Qb1 29 Kf2 Qa2 30 Kg3 Bb6 31 Nf4 Qa5 would be too strong for Black.

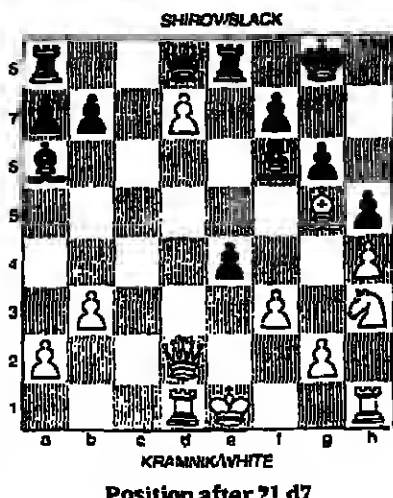
The interpolation of 20 Nf6 Bf6 did not enhance 21 d7 because Shirov produced the blockbuster 21...Qb6! After 22 d7 Qe8 Kramnik could not defend by 23 Be3 because 23...Bh4 24 Nf2 e7 25 Rh4 Re3 forces mate. So he played 23 Qe3, but after 23...Bg5 24 Qb6 Bh4 25 Kd2 (or 25 Qf2 e7 26 Kd2 Bf2 27 Nf2 Nf2) ab, Shirov had a hishop plus two pawns for a rook.

Kramnik lost a pawn with 34 Re1 Re1 35 Ne1 Bb4 36 Re2 Be1 37 Re1 Bg2, but in any case he had little chance for defense.

Facing 48...Kd4, 49 Kc4 and 50 Kb4, winning both of the queenside pawns, Kramnik gave up.

GRUENFELD DEFENSE

White	Black	White	Black
Kramnik	Shirov	Kramnik	Shirov
1 d4	Nf6	25 f6	Re4
2 c4	e5	26 Kc2	Rd4
3 f3	g5	27 Rg2	Be7
4 cd	Nd5	28 Rg1	Kg7
5 e4	Nb6	29 Nf2	Rf4
6 Nc3	Bg7	30 Nf3	Re4
7 Bg3	0-0	31 Bg2	Bd6
8 Qd2	e5	32 Re1	Bc6
9 d5	c6	33 e4	Be6
10 h4	h5	34 Re1	Re1
11 Be2	cd	35 Re2	Bd4
12 cd	Nb6?	36 Rg1	Bg2
13 d6	Nf6	37 Rf1	Bd4
14 Bg5	Re6	38 Kf2	Bd6
15 Rd1	Re6	39 Bf4	Bd2
16 Nf3	Nc4	40 Re2	Bd1
17 Bc4	Bg4	41 Re2	Be4
18 Bb5	Ba6	42 Kf4	Bf6
19 Nd5	e4	43 Rd7	Kg6
20 Nf6	Bf6	44 Rh7	g5
21 d7	Qe6	45 Kg2	g4
22 d8/Q	Re8	46 Kf4	Kd5
23 Qc3	Bg5	47	
24 Qb6	Bf4	and	
25 Kd2	ab	Resigns	



Position after 21 d7

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE
JUNE 23, 1998
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Structuring



DOWN
1. 1. d4 Nf6
2. c4 e5
3. f3 g5
4. cd Nd5
5. e4 Nb6
6. Nc3 Bg7
7. Bg3 0-0
8. Qd2 e5
9. d5 c6
10. h4 h5
11. Be2 cd
12. cd Nb6?
13. d6 Nf6
14. Bg5 Re6
15. Rd1 Re6
16. Nf3 Nc4
17. Bc4 Bg4
18. Bb5 Ba6
19. Nd5 e4
20. Nf6 Bf6
21. d7 Qe6
22. d8/Q Re8
23. Qc3 Bg5
24. Qb6 Bf4
25. Kd2 ab
and Resigns

U.S. Envoy Starts Visit to Balkans
Holbrooke Meets Greek Leader to Discuss Cyprus and Kosovo Crises

Structuring Creativity: Antwerp's Cradle of Design



By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

ANTWERP, Belgium — It was like a film noir in a medieval dungeon: ghostly white figures with pictures projected on their bodies.

But behind this dramatic scenario was a rack of intricately cut, well-made clothes in black and gray — with just a splatter of blood red as a skirt unfurled.

Belgian fashion is a particular mix of gothic fantasy and down-to-earth reality. And the installation by the graduating student Marjolijn Van den Heuvel summed up its spirit.

She was one of seven final-year designers from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, which staged its annual show last weekend — and proved the importance of the college as a seedbed of fresh talent.

Far from being a fashion outpost, Belgium has been center stage ever since a group of designers known as the Antwerp Six came to prominence in the 1980s. They included Ann Demeulemeester, Martin Margiela and Dries Van Noten, who have all defined 1990s style. Their work is often dark and deconstructivist, but it uses natural, even rugged, fabrics and is based on the noble tailoring tradition and rich culture of Flanders.

With that comes a quirky, troll-like spirit that you find in the Bruegel paintings on exhibit in the city. In fact, the imaginative shoes created by the students — squashy leather boots with open toes and shoes with heels straight as sticks — might have walked right out of the crowded 16th-century canvases.

"It's about using something natural and turning it into something mysterious and dark," said Van den Heuvel, showing footwear she described as a "mix of Eggo Schiele and cowboy boot" and "oversize pants wrapped to the body to create 'broken lines'."

But don't imagine that the students study Antwerp's peasant art and pointed architecture to produce Identikit collections. Their strength is in diversity — and that is the achievement of Linda Loppe, head of the fashion department since 1985.

"What they have to do is to discover

themselves," said Loppe. "If they find their own identity — then we did a good job."

Her words are echoed by Walter Van Beirendonck, who is the designer behind the funky and upbeat W< label. He studied at the academy and has taught there for 11 years.

"I try to use my imagination and fantasy to get into their world and work with them from inside to out — and the best ones have their own style after four years of working so intensely," said Van Beirendonck.

For Bernhard Wilhelm, a student who graduated with distinction, that individuality meant capturing the spirit of his native Bavaria in an installation of fir trees and in knitwear patterned like paw prints on snow. Modern takes on Little Red Riding Hood were the checked Tulle tablecloths made into tulip-shaped skirts and dirrds reworked in asymmetric tiers. The knitwear — inspired by the newspaper story of a little old lady knitting an entire wardrobe — was exceptional in its graphic modernity.

Tom Coppens's simple sportswear with computer-manipulated prints on a lizard theme was also graphic and made a dramatic show, as prints and colors slithered together and snake-patterned beads made dangling headgear.

The current graduates are childhood friends of the 1980s. Kris Van Assche set up a boxing installation and focused on two iconic figures of that era: Margaret Thatcher and Madonna. His clothes — showed by models with glittering boxing gloves — expressed a confrontation between masculine and feminine as crisp tailoring fabrics were draped or used asymmetrically.

Loppe says that she would describe Belgian style as being about "good fabrics and nice finish — quite flat and linear, not so much about drapes."

But it is the quality of that tailoring that distinguishes Belgian students from their international counterparts and is the basis on which recent graduates like Veronique Branquinho have managed to set up business. Both she and her partner, Raf Simons, are based in Antwerp, show in Paris and are making a name for themselves with the press and retailers alike. Branquinho, who graduated in 1995,

paid tribute to Loppe, describing her as a "strong woman," and saying that she runs a very individual academy, where "they want you to go deep inside yourself — and they follow and help."

Both she and Simons are also grateful to the pioneering work done by the Antwerp Six in building good relations with local banks and manufacturers. Significantly, Belgian fashion graduates, unlike the British, are not obliged to look abroad if they want to set up their own labels.

For Olivier Theyskens, another rising young Belgian designer who dropped out of the La Cambre design school in Brussels, the Antwerp college is unique. Although Madonna wore a Theyskens dress to the Academy Awards, he has not yet organized his manufacturing.

After watching the Antwerp show, staged in the soaring, vaulted ancient stock exchange, he said: "If I'd been to this school where every student reaches their personal goal — maybe I would have stayed."

So what is so special about the Antwerp experience? The word the graduates use to describe it is "discipline."

"I think maybe it is realism and discipline — being taught that self discipline is the only way to survive," said Van Assche.

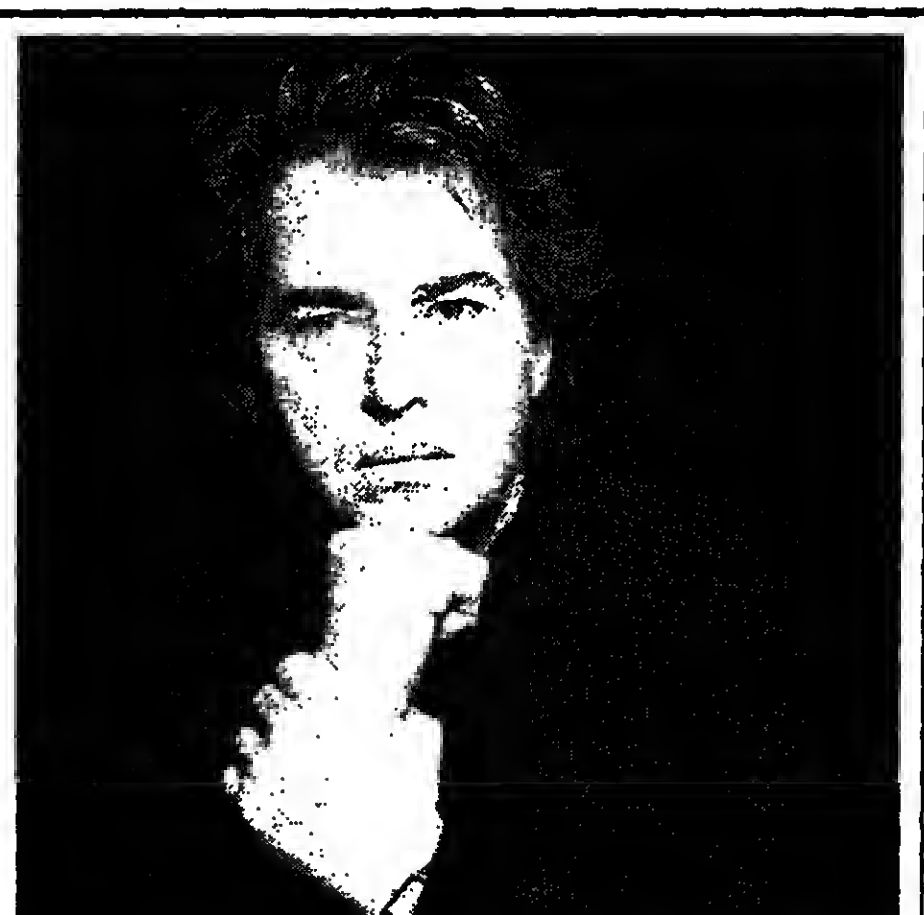
THAT chimes with the impression formed by Hirofumi Kurino, from Tokyo's United Arrows retail group.

"For me, Belgian style is a kind of realism," he said. "There are many strong ideas, but most of the clothes on the runway are wearable — and that is a strong part of the vision. The way they are teaching and guiding is excellent, respecting freedom and individuality, but with each student really thinking about the market."

While Antwerp is on the crest of a design wave, Loppe is working on a new initiative: to create a Flanders Fashion Institute, a 5,000-square-meter building on four floors, restored by city funding and projected to open in 2000.

For this venture, there is a motto: "It is not sufficient to cherish creativity — it has to be structured." That sums up what is happening in Antwerp — and the lesson it can give to the wider fashion world.

In Antwerp, clockwise from top left: Coppens's graphic knit; Van den Heuvel and her gothic installation; Van Assche holding skirt, and his dress with boxing gloves; Wilhelm's footprints-in-the-snow pattern, and the designer with linear sweater; established graduates: Branquinho and Van Beirendonck.



Gilles Dufour was formerly Karl Lagerfeld's right hand at Chanel.

France Looks to Its Own Dufour Signs On With Balmain

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Are French designers — recently overshadowed by the arrival of English and American talents — about to regain the spotlight?

Gilles Dufour, former right hand of Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel, was appointed last week to the house of Balmain, where he will show his first ready-to-wear collection in March 1999 and give a coherent, luxury image to Balmain's worldwide licensed products.

Although Oscar de la Renta will continue to design the couture collections (which have been a critical and client success story) the arrival of Dufour is significant because he is an experienced designer, steeped in French culture, who is replacing a new-generation flop.

Andrew Gn, a Singapore-born designer, with a sleek, modern style for his own label, failed to convince press or buyers in his first show for Balmain last season and was dismissed. Significantly too, Dufour will apply his talents full-time to the house, reinforcing the current feeling that the era of the itinerant fashion mercenary is ending.

"I am happy to be a French designer at a French house and I envisage doing fashion that is wearable and à la française," said Dufour. "Balmain was associated with 'Jolie Madame.' But I want to do something that is younger, sporty and sophisticated."

Dufour, who has designed costumes for Twyla Tharp ballets and says that his fashion heroine is the witty 1930s designer Elsa Schiaparelli, paid tribute to de la Renta for waking up the "Sleeping Beauty" Balmain. He also said that although he loved working with Lagerfeld and helping to build the success of Chanel, he was looking forward to doing his own thing.

"I picked Gilles because of his great experience with Chanel, because his work is classical in a modern way and because I need someone who is French, lives in Paris and can concentrate on Balmain," Georgina Brandolini, Balmain's managing director, said Monday.

After the Anglo-Saxon designer hordes have swept through Paris, there are signs that France is looking to its own. Gilles Rosta, who already designs the Lacoste brand, has taken a senior design position at Kenzo. Michele and Olivier Chatelet, who form the design team Mariot Chatelet, have been absorbed into Eres, the swimwear company that was bought last year by Chanel.

Although the July couture calendar will include the Italians Valentino and Donatella Versace (showing their first high-fashion collection), French fashion's ruling body has invited Christophe Rouxel to join, a 33-year-old French designer who worked briefly at both Chanel and Saint Laurent. And Stephane Rolland, 31, will sign his first line for Jean-Louis Scherrer.

CROSSWORD

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Automobile pioneer</p> <p>6 Baby's affliction</p> <p>10 Sailing maneuver</p> <p>14 Pub missile</p> <p>16 "Is that...?" ("Really?")</p> <p>18 Preschooler, briefly</p> <p>17 Military attire</p> <p>18 Iranian money</p> <p>20 Reggae relative</p> <p>21 Yarn maker</p> <p>22 Troutlike fish</p> <p>23 Poets with small, fragrant flowers</p>	<p>27 Kind of lantern</p> <p>28 Playwright O'Casey</p> <p>30 Masters and Jonson, e.g.</p> <p>31 Pellet propeller</p> <p>32 Jerk</p> <p>33 — the good</p> <p>34 Sportscastrer</p> <p>35 One of the Virgin Islands</p> <p>42 On the (not working)</p> <p>44 Sign</p> <p>45 Go along with</p> <p>47 Lushly dish</p> <p>48 Willow tree</p> <p>52 One of the "back 40"</p>	<p>53 Motorists' org.</p> <p>54 "Scat, cat!"</p> <p>57 Breakfast side dish</p> <p>58 Computer list</p> <p>61 Cow of note</p> <p>62 Anniversary, e.g.</p> <p>63 Kilt</p> <p>64 Check writer</p> <p>65 Potato features</p>	<p>27 Calculating typas</p> <p>28 Welcomer</p> <p>31 Capp and Capone</p> <p>32 Takes to the air</p> <p>33 Pig's native</p> <p>34 Auto maker Ferrari</p> <p>35 New World abor.</p> <p>37 Get, as a job</p> <p>40 Finish putting</p> <p>41 Bridge expert</p> <p>42 Sheriff</p> <p>43 Less restrained</p> <p>44 Cartoon canine</p> <p>45 Comic strip redhead</p> <p>46 Big name in baby food</p> <p>47 "Kramer of Springfield"</p> <p>48 Actor Milo</p> <p>49 Club members since 1917</p> <p>50 Given to gabbing</p> <p>51 What's required to be "it"</p> <p>52 — Death (Grieg work)</p> <p>53 Wile</p> <p>54 It goes before carts, but not horse</p> <p>55 Keats creation</p>
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Solution to Puzzle of June 22

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GERMAN	OLGA	
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APORT	EISE	BURBA
KAYE	MADE	YESSES
ELBA	BRETER	
USER	LOCALE	
BITZ	LOVEHANDLES	
OOZED	ARAT	RIMS
STEVE	GITE	OBSE
CARER	TEED	WITIN

BUILT FOR BUSINESS: JAPAN



A window of opportunity: The June 20 meeting between Japanese and G-7 officials and representatives from 11 Asian nations in Tokyo reflected international support for Japanese reform efforts and the importance of the world's second largest economy to global financial stability. Above: Finance Minister Hiroshi Matsunaga (left) and Eisaku Sakakibara, the Finance Ministry's vice minister for international affairs at the opening of the meeting.



WIDE-RANGING REFORMS AIM TO JUMP-START THE ECONOMY

Tax incentives, increased liberalization and a long-term overhaul of the bureaucracy aim to attack the root of the problems.

The past two weeks have taken Japan, its currency and its markets on a roller coaster ride. The hope is that the country can now move forward to revive its economy after officials have made firm pledges and begun enacting stimulus and reform packages, the United States has given its support to the Japanese currency, and members of the Group of Seven nations and representatives from 11 Asian countries have firmly encouraged Japan to

act soon to restructure its financial system in Tokyo on June 20. "We are very serious about structural reform, particularly financial reforms, in this country," said Vice Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto last Thursday. "Bad debts must be cleaned from [banks'] balance sheets."

Parliament may begin acting on one means to resolving this issue — a "bridge bank" that would take over the assets and liabilities of failing banks — as early as this week. Japan's recent acknowl-

edgment that its economy was in recession is seen by some analysts as a positive sign that the government is ready to face the problems head-on. On June 12, Japan's Economic Planning Agency said that the country's gross domestic product shrank 0.7 percent in fiscal 1997, which ended on March 31. That marks the first full year of economic decline (measured in yen) since 1974, when the economy contracted 0.5 percent. In the last quarter of the fiscal year, the GDP declined

1.3 percent. This result came on the heels of a 0.4 percent drop in the October-December quarter. Koji Ori, director-general of Japan's EPA, said in a recent speech that Japan needs to pursue sound "macroeconomic policy combined with structural reform and further financial stabilization" to reverse this trend.

Long-term plans to overhaul the country's central bureaucracy should help. The government's 22 ministries and agencies are to be converted into one cabinet agency and 12 ministries and agencies starting in 2001. Such moves could lead to further simplifications in the rules and regulations that businesses — especially start-ups — must deal with, stimulating job creation.

Strong fundamentals
In the short-term, the latest fiscal package could potentially add 1 percent to this year's economic growth — maybe more — analysts say; the size of the stimulus measures represent approximately 3 percent of Japan's gross domestic product, according to the Japan External Trade Organization. It includes about 4 trillion yen in tax cuts, which will have the general effect of making up for last year's tax increase.

The Japanese government believes that the economy

can still grow 1.5 percent or better in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1999. Officials and politicians — many of whom are preparing for the July 12 election of the upper house of Parliament — say the underlying fundamentals of the economy are sound.

They point to the country's large base of accumulated assets. This includes roughly \$800 billion in foreign assets, for instance, and \$9.3 trillion in household financial assets. Japan also has foreign reserves of more than \$220 billion, a large and highly skilled labor force, and some of the strongest high-tech and industrial firms in the world. In addition, the current unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, though a record high for Japan, is still very low by world standards — lower even than the highly touted U.S. rate of 4.3 percent.

But only time will tell if these fundamentals, coupled with short-term measures, are enough to get the economy moving again. "Assuming all goes well on the legislative front, money spent in July will show up only in numbers released in September relating to August," said Alexander Kimmont of Morgan Stanley Japan Ltd. in a recent report.

Details related to the latest short-term tax cut are being

Continued on page 11

THE BIG BANG: LIBERALIZING THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

New players and foreign competition.

Japan's Big Bang reforms are moving forward. But the weak state of the economy and stock markets mean their full impact may not be seen for some time.

The financial liberalization measures are designed to make the country competitive with global financial centers like New York and London by 2001.

In April, the country's foreign exchange law was changed, and Japanese companies and consumers were allowed to handle foreign currencies freely.

"We are strongly committed to promoting economic structural reform, including drastic deregulation, creating an attractive environment for venture businesses and implementing the financial reform, Big Bang," said Economic Planning Agency Director-General Koji Ori in a recent speech.

Japan's Parliament approved further reform measures on June 5 that may enable the island nation to achieve these goals.

The liberalization of investment trust funds, similar to U.S. mutual funds, is one important example. From Dec. 1, these funds can be sold by banks from existing banking facilities. In addition, a ban on derivatives trading will end at this time.

Another key reform concerns non-life insurance premium rates. These rates will be liberalized as of July 1. Until now, they have been set by industry panels.

Brokers' commission fees should be fully liberalized by the end of next year.

Further reforms aim for greater disclosure of corporate management information and an improved system for registering securities firms.

A survey of nearly 1,200 small and medium-sized businesses in Osaka conducted in March by Osaka City Shinkin Bank found the majority, 64 percent, favored such measures. Many companies felt that disclosure by financial institutions and related measures would have a positive impact.

Another change expected to occur as a result of Japan's Big Bang is an increase in electronic commerce.

The Osaka Securities Exchange is setting up an electronic transactions system that should be in full operation by the end of this year. It will enable securities firms, institutional investors and others to execute negotiations for over-the-counter stocks by computer.

Japanese software distributor SoftBank Corp. intends to sell securities on-line starting next year through a joint venture with E*Trade Group Inc., a U.S. Internet brokerage company. SoftBank recently bought MAC, a Japanese asset management firm.

An improved environment for foreign investors is also expected. The Japanese government is considering the controversial move of abolishing the withholding tax paid by non-residents on income from Japanese securities. This could produce a positive jolt to Japan's government bond market.

A related change is the expanding role of foreign financial institutions.

Merrill Lynch & Co. made quite a splash several months ago by taking over some of the retail brokerage assets — and employees — of the defunct Yamaichi Securities Co. And Goldman, Sachs & Co. has announced plans to work with Fuji Bank Ltd. to distribute mutual funds in Japan.

Now Travelers Group Inc. is taking a major plunge — acquiring a 25 percent stake in Nikko Securities Co., one of Japan's three largest brokerage firms. If it is approved, the joint venture, to be named Nikko Solomon Smith Barney, would have 150 retail outlets, a figure the partners intend to double over the next few years. In another important alliance, Chuo Trust & Banking Co. has taken steps to team up with HSBC Holdings Plc., the UK-based financial group, to provide asset-management services and sell investment trusts in Japan.

Ventures involving foreign financial firms could face some large Japanese competitors. Nomura Securities and the Industrial Bank of Japan, for instance, have moved to form a strategic partnership, a deal that could link the country's top two pension management firms.

Better regulation
Better regulation of Japan's financial system should also result as reforms continue. The Bank of Japan gained independent control over the country's monetary policy on April 1, and interest rates are now being directed by a new nine-member policy board.

Still in the works is an independent Finance Supervisor Agency to be set up in late June. This agency will assume the oversight role previously played by the Ministry of Finance.

The field of securitization — the packaging and selling of assets — should continue to expand. Orix Corp., one of Japan's biggest leasing companies, has been actively buying and selling leased assets, for instance. And many foreign financial firms are aggressively moving into this growing niche.

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BUILT FOR BUSINESS: JAPAN

GLOBAL VENTURES LAY GROUNDWORK FOR GROWTH

High tech is basis for international partnerships.

Through high-tech partnerships, financial investments and face-to-face exchanges, Japanese companies and organizations are forming strategic link-ups and reworking their overseas operations.

The expectation is that global ventures can help them better exploit strong markets for certain products and services today and position them for future growth worldwide.

In the high-tech area, Victor Co. of Japan Ltd. (JVC) recently struck a deal with MGI Software Corp. of Toronto, Ontario to bundle MGI's technology into its new line of digital camcorders and digital video printers.

MGI — in cooperation with Mitsumi & Co. — has struck similar agreements with Fuji Film Co. and Canon Inc. in recent months.

By using the Canadian company's technology, JVC is able to enrich the photo quality of images being stored and manipulated on personal computers and the Internet, MGI says. The technology is meant to improve the resolution of full motion video and still images captured on camcorders and downloaded onto computers.

Matsushita's Panasonic Computer Peripheral Co. and several other multinational computer makers licensed color-management technology from a division of Eastman Kodak Co. in March. The technology controls the quality of color that is downloaded, displayed on a monitor and shipped out or printed — allowing uniform images to appear in different computer media.

In the semiconductor field,

some Japanese electronics firms are incorporating high-bandwidth semiconductor interface technology made by Rambus Inc. of Mountain View, California. The technology transfers data between semiconductor chips imbedded in consumer and multimedia products at high speeds.

Satellite networks Electronics maker Sharp Corp. began participating in SkyBridge, a satellite network program led by France's Alcatel Alsthom, last year and continues to work with members of the SkyBridge Limited Partnership. Sharp's efforts focus on developing interfaces, broadcast communication adapters, terminal components and solar cells for satellites and multimedia equipment that support the full-scale operation of the network.

The network is slated to begin operation in late 2001 and aims to enable two-way multimedia communications worldwide by linking 80 low-earth orbiting satellites with high-speed ground communications systems.

Other Japanese partners in the project are Toshiba Corp. and Mitsubishi Electric Corp.

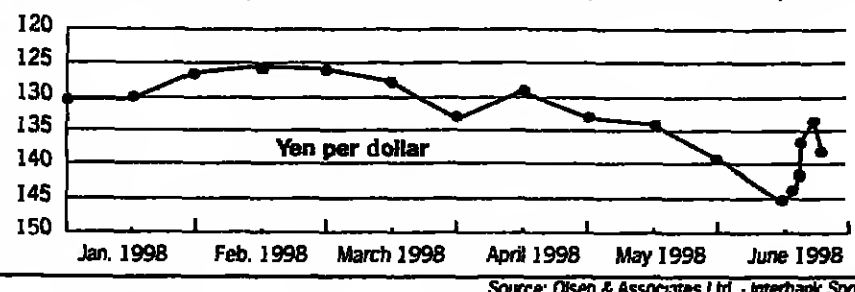
In a more down-to-earth venture, Mitsubishi Corp. is working with Billiton Plc of the United Kingdom on a large aluminum project in Mozambique.

On the entertainment

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

When the yen is weaker, it affects the economies at home and abroad:

- Japan's exports become cheaper in the United States and Europe.
- Investing in Japan becomes less expensive.
- Traveling to Japan as a tourist becomes a better value.
- Other Asian currencies come under pressure.
- Japan's stock markets, as well as markets in neighboring Asian countries, are affected negatively.
- Goods imported to Japan from the United States and Europe become more expensive.



Source: Olsen & Associates Ltd., Interbank Spot Rate

front, Universal Studios Japan continues to encourage the participation of foreign and local merchants in and around its developing waterfront theme park in Osaka. Also in the works is a "sea world" park being built by Japan's Oriental Land Co. in cooperation with the Walt Disney Corp.

International forums To ensure the future of Japan's cultural treasures — the kimono — Kyoto's Nishijin Textile Industrial Association is sending weavers to Lyon, France to study software used to design, color and manipulate silk fabrics.

They hope this effort — in addition to the production of new apparel items, home furnishings and related products that borrow traditional designs and themes from kimono — will aid them in keeping the art of kimono-making alive.

To encourage the forma-

nology and high-speed spindles.

Two other global trade shows taking place in Osaka later this year are Techtextil Asia in mid-October and Food-Tech '98, both at Intex Osaka.

In Tokyo, Auto Asia '98 — September 18-20 at the Tokyo Big Sight exhibition area — is being organized by the Tokyo International Trade Fair Commission and the Japan Automotive Parts & Accessories Aftermarket Federation. The Japan Electronics Show '98 will be held in Chiba at Makuhari Messe from Oct. 6 to 10.

In a graphic demonstration of Japan's participation in and support for one of this summer's most important global events, the World Cup soccer tournament, All Nippon Airways Co. painted two of its Boeing 747s with the words "Goal! Goal! Goal!" and introduced extra flights between Japan and France.

J.P.L.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	1995	1996	1997	1998**
GDP*	\$5,137 trillion	\$4,595 trillion	\$4,223 trillion	\$4,223 trillion
Inflation Rate	-0.1%	0.1%	1.7%	0.9%
Balance of Payments	\$111 billion	\$66 billion	\$95 billion	\$99 billion
Exports	\$443.0 billion	\$411.2 billion	\$421.1 billion	N/A
Imports	\$335.9 billion	\$349.5 billion	\$338.7 billion	N/A

* at current prices and exchange rates ** estimates Source: International Monetary Fund, 5/98

TELECOMS: COMPETITION BENEFITS CUSTOMERS

Japan complies with World Trade Organization global telecoms accords.

The costs of voice and data communications have plunged over the last two decades, but consumers in Japan have only recently been able to benefit from increased competition in the telecommunications sector.

The proliferation of call-back services and Internet telephony firms has sent costs tumbling to the point where some residents of Hokkaido, Japan's northern main island, are using U.S. call-back connections to dial Tokyo on a regular basis. "No charge for uncompleted calls! No connection fees! Call anywhere in the world! USA 22 yen a minute!" scream ads in the local press.

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., the national operator and the world's largest telecommunications company, has responded to this competition — and the prospect of politically mandated reform — by slashing domestic long-distance prices.

"NTT is now the price leader in the [domestic] long-distance market, but nobody can make money in this area," says Merrill Lynch analyst Kiyohisa Ota. "Money can, however, be made in the local and mobile sectors, and NTT holds a 99.7 percent share of the local market."

In the mobile arena, NTT DoCoMo, the mobile arm of NTT, leads the domestic market with 16.67 million subscribers recorded in January 1998 and a network that covers 98 percent of the population. It is also a key international player in the development of cutting-edge third-generation mobile technology known as Wideband CDMA (W-CDMA), set to be launched in 2000.

Scrapping restrictions Although NTT is rumored to be planning to raise its basic charges, it has also decided to provide new subscribers with an alternative to paying the much-resented initial subscription fee of 72,000 yen (\$520).

Back in the good/bad old days of the high-flying yen, a phone line cost the equivalent of up to \$900. By the end of this year, however, new subscribers will reportedly be able to avoid the subscription fee altogether by paying a monthly charge of around \$4.

The increase in competition in the Japanese telecommunications market is due in large part to the fact that Japan last year agreed to scrap its restrictions on the resale of spare capacity on international lines. This was in line with the global telecom accord reached by 68 members of the World Trade Organization. But Japan refused to lift the restriction on foreign equity ownership in

NTT or international carrier KDD. "The Japanese government considers the NTT matter one of reciprocity," says Mr. Ota, explaining that until the United States relaxes its restrictions on foreign equity holdings in U.S. mobile companies, Japan will continue to move slowly on reforming NTT.

Although the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications declined to comment on the likelihood of an AT&T-style breakup of NTT, the telecom giant is expected to be split up next year into a number of businesses. These units, however, are expected to be joined in a new form, under a holding company.

Critics say the ministry capitulated to NTT's demand that it not be broken into too many competing companies. The 20-percent-maximum foreign equity restriction for KDD, however, could be lifted in the next few months, according to Mr. Ota.

New players Foreign telecoms companies are also entering the Japanese market. In March, WorldCom Inc., the fourth-largest U.S. long-distance carrier, woo a license to provide international phone service in Japan.

In early June, British Telecommunications applied for a license to provide phone service in Japan using its own network.

If the application is approved, British Telecom will start offering international phone service in January 1999 through a joint venture with a Japanese trading firm, Marubeni Corp. The BT-Marubeni venture plans to build a fiber-optic network in Tokyo next year, giving it direct access to Japanese customers. Calls will be connected to British Telecom's worldwide network via a network owned by NTT. The company is already offering international and domestic service in Japan by leasing facilities from other carriers.

To avoid the relatively high cost of voice communications, many foreign businesses in Japan are relying increasingly on e-mail to stay in contact with coworkers overseas. Converse Japan President William R. Hayes says his branch office, which services Japan and South Korea, keeps in touch with other Converse offices over the Internet.

Internet service providers in Japan have no choice but to rent circuits from NTT — a fact not lost on the telecom giant.

NTT's success in capitalizing on the growth of Internet access can be seen in the firm's number of ISDN subscribers. Their ranks are expected to top 4 million by early next year.

Greg Wiegand

DRIVING ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY CARS

Japan leads the world in producing clean-running automobiles.

As part of a worldwide effort to reduce global warming in accordance with the Kyoto Declaration, Japanese carmakers are rolling out vehicles — both at home and abroad — that promise to pollute less while using less fuel.

Toyota Motor Corp. is one of the leaders in this effort. Its hybrid car, the Prius, is powered by both an electric motor and a gasoline engine and gets 66 miles to the gallon. Levels of carbon dioxide and other toxic emissions generated by the vehicle's engine are well below that of traditional gas-powered cars. The car uses electricity at low speeds and gas at high speeds.

The Japanese have been eagerly buying Prius and its hybrid technology. One reason is its low sticker price — roughly \$15,500. Toyota intends to export the car to the United States and probably Europe by the end of 2000.

The company's electric sport-utility vehicle, the RAV4-EV, is proving popular in New York City, where local authorities recently leased 37 of the vehicles for city agencies. Other organizations in the area are already using 20 of them through leasing arrangements. The RAV4-EV can travel up to 120 miles on a single charge at speeds of up to 78 miles per hour. More than 360 have been ordered.

Later this year, Toyota intends to sell a limited number of compressed-natural-gas-powered Camrys. These vehicles produce cleaner exhaust than traditional cars.

Standard system As part of its environmental strategy, Toyota is working with General Motors Corp. of the U.S. to develop a new inductive charging system for electric vehicles. The project's objective, outlined on June 1, is to introduce a standard charging system that can be used by consumers worldwide.

At present, there are two different charging systems for EVs. One is an inductive system used on the GM electric pickup truck and the Nissan Altra EV, and the other is a conductive system for Toyota's RAV4-EV and electric cars made by other auto manufacturers.

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. recently developed two small direct injection diesel engines that cut down on the amount of petroleum used by and emissions generated by traditional gas-powered cars.

Plans call for the engine to be introduced in a sport-utility vehicle slated to go on sale in Japan next year.

The company launched its GDI engine, which injects gasoline directly into the cylinders of a car, in its Galant/Legnum series in 1996. Roughly 200,000 cars with GDI engines had been ordered as of February, including the GDI-powered Carisma — which was rolled out in Europe in October of last year.

J.P.L.

JAPAN ON-LINE

- www.japantimes.co.jp The Japan Times' newspaper site includes a weekly news roundup and details on festivals, museums and galleries in and around Tokyo and Osaka.
- www.jetro.go.jp The Web page of the Japan External Trade Organization contains facts and figures and links with other information-packed sites.
- www.jnto.go.jp The Japan National Tourist Organization offers maps, travel hints, news and events calendars.
- www.epa.go.jp Japan's Economic Planning Agency site includes information on the Japanese economy and useful links.
- www.nikkei.co.jp The Nikkei Net focuses on economic and financial news.
- www.yomiuri.co.jp The Daily Yomiuri newspaper gives viewers the latest national news and has an arts and entertainment guide.

IMPLEMENTING ECONOMIC REFORMS

Continued from page 1

worked out. At the same time, the Tax Reform Council is examining a broader, long-term reform of Japan's tax system. "The key issue," Mr. Kinnmont adds, "will be whether changes in the tax system are important enough to affect the structure of economic incentives."

Reform in some fields — air transport, energy, electronic commerce, finance, telecommunications and other services — may lead to additional liberalization. In addition to increasing competition in the financial sector, the Japanese government is considering tax incentives that may help the country resolve its bad-debt problem. The problem loans are estimated at more than 75 trillion yen (\$550 billion).

In the energy sector, Japanese companies may soon be able to buy power from independent producers. These organizations plan to price their electricity at least 20 percent below rates charged by regional electricity entities once new rules are enacted. In early June, Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry announced plans to abolish price controls on petroleum products and rules governing oil refinery construction. The recommended measures, however, aren't expected to take effect until 2001. Ne-

gotiations between Japanese and American officials appear to have laid the groundwork for generally unrestricted electronic commerce and information flows.

This could be good news for Japanese consumers, once their level of confidence improves. Predicting when that may happen is difficult. With rising unemployment and falling wage growth, disposable income could decline about 1.2 percent in fiscal 1998, reports Morgan Stanley's Robert Feldman.

The good economic news for some Japanese companies has been that consumers overseas — mainly in the Americas and Europe — continue to believe their products are worth buying. Toyota Motor Corp.'s exports grew by 11 percent in April. Honda Motor Co.'s by 8.3 percent and Mazda Motor Corp.'s by 10.2 percent, according to the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association in Washington, D.C. Faced with weak demand at home, Japan's carmakers are working to add efficiency and increase sales by borrowing some techniques from foreign automakers. Toyota intends to set up a network of large showrooms over the next three years. This focus could take priority over traditional sales methods, such as home visits by salesmen. For the nation as a whole, the pressure is on the government to further deregulate as a means of jump-starting the economy. Janet Purdy Levaux

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Cracking Defenses of Smart Cards

Code Breaker Throws
Doubt on Their Security

By Peter Wayner
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — To the companies in the smart-card business, Paul Kocher may be too smart for their own good.

For the last year, Mr. Kocher's four-person consulting firm in San Francisco has kept big credit-card companies and banks on edge by sharing details of his discovery of a way to break into the newest version of the smart card.

The cards are credit-card-size devices that contain a tiny computer chip and can be used for a variety of purposes including storing so-called digital cash.

Although Mr. Kocher's intent has been to warn the industry and sell it possible solutions, his expertise — in the hands of thieves, counterfeiters or impostors — could compromise the security safeguards of smart cards, which are coming into widespread use in the United States and Europe.

The cards are at the center of the plans by the banking and credit-card industries to cut costs and improve customer convenience by replacing conventional magnetic-stripe cards with ones that not only can act as a debit or automated-teller-machine card but can also be loaded with digital cash that would function as legal tender wherever merchants have digital-cash decoder terminals.

Public confidence in the technology will be crucial to the industry's plans. And that may help explain why, since word leaked of Mr. Kocher's breakthrough two weeks ago, the industries promoting smart cards have tended to play down his technique by calling it a "laboratory attack" that could be replicated by perhaps a handful of people around the world.

"Chip cards are the most secure technology around," said Steve Schapp, the executive vice president of Visa International in charge of developing smart cards. "They are very hard to break."

Mr. Kocher likes to remind the industry, however, "We have not yet en-



Paul Kocher holding a smart card and a reader used to decipher codes.

countered a card that couldn't be broken."

Mr. Kocher and his colleagues were able to crack the digital code designed to make the smart cards tamperproof by drawing mathematical inferences from the fluctuating electrical power consumption of the chip.

It is a sophisticated type of analysis, but the rudimentary "laboratory" — in this case a three-room office suite, some garden-variety personal computers and several thousand dollars' worth of electronics equipment — indicates that it does not require elaborate tools to crack

what is supposed to be a highly secure digital safe.

As details of the technique circulate, as they invariably do in the hacker underground, imitators will almost certainly try to duplicate Mr. Kocher's experiment. For his part, Mr. Kocher, who at 25 is already a well-known expert in the code breaking, said, "As the expertise becomes more widely available, the threats will become more than academic."

Peter Neumann, a computer scientist

See SMART, Page 20

Tokyo Rushes to Offer Bank Plan

But Skeptical Markets Punish Yen on Lack of a Concrete Strategy

By Sandra Sngawara
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — Japanese officials scrambled Monday to try to put together a credible plan for closing or merging weak banks before its currency begins collapsing again. But the yen edged downward on skepticism over the ability of Japan to stabilize its banking system.

The dollar was changing hands at 138.06 yen at 4 P.M. on Monday in New York, compared with 136.050 at the market close on Friday. Traders warned that Japan, the world's second largest economy, must move quickly to pull itself out of its recession, particularly with anxieties growing over the stability of Long Term Credit Bank of Japan, one of the country's major banks.

The secretary-general of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, Koichi Kato, said after an emergency meeting with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto that by July 8 the party would release the outlines of a plan to create a "bridge bank." News reports say that the "bridge bank" would probably take on the bad debts of ailing institutions and provide loans to other borrowers if their banks failed.



Charlene Barshefsky meets Mitsuo Horiuchi. Page 20.

The deadline means a plan would be announced before the July 12 upper-house elections, and Mr. Kato hinted that many details would probably come out at a July 2 policy-planning meeting. Some traders were also hoping for more details at a meeting Tuesday of a government committee that is working on other proposals for banking reform.

But because of conflicting statements from the governing party and in media reports about the bridge bank plan, investors remained wary.

"If you look at what the currency has done, it doesn't appear to have given a very great vote of confidence in the government's ability to carry this out," said Kathy Matsui, a Tokyo-based strategist at Goldman Sachs. The big question is, does the government have much time, and it doesn't.

Indeed, shares of Long Term Credit Bank of Japan plummeted 44.6 percent, to a record low of 62 yen on Monday, as waves of sell orders hit the stock, traders said. Long Term Credit Bank has been the subject of numerous market rumors, many denied, that are threatening the bank's ability to raise funds, analysts said.

The danger is this becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy," said Brian Waterhouse, a banking analyst at HSBC Securities.

Mr. Hashimoto told a senior Liberal Democratic Party official, Taku Yamazaki, in a meeting Monday, that he was "worried about LTCB as the markets are increasingly downgrading their assessment of the bank," the Kyodo news service reported. Mr. Hashimoto asked Mr. Yamazaki to find ways to help the bank regain market confidence.

See YEN, Page 20

Italy's GDP Shrinks as Asia Woes Bite

Bloomberg News

ROME — Italy's economy unexpectedly shrank in the first quarter as Asia's economic slump knocked back Italian exports to the region and a cut in state-sponsored car incentives slowed factory output at home, official data showed Monday.

The economy — the third-largest of the 11 nations adopting the European single currency, or euro — contracted 0.1 percent, its first quarterly drop since the end of 1996. Gross domestic product grew 2.5 percent from a year before, flattered by the comparison with the year-earlier period, when the economy barely grew.

Tumbling currencies and economies

in Asia have eroded shoppers' appetite for Italian-made goods, notably clothing, while the trimming of car incentives has pounded industrial output. That suggests that Italy, unlike its other leading euro partners France and Germany, will be less of an engine behind European economic growth this year.

"The economy is still pretty contradictory," said Giovanni Ciani, chief executive of Stefanel SpA, a Treviso-based retailer and designer of clothing. "On the one hand, there are signs of a rebound, but in the clothing sector, for example, it is not yet very clear-cut."

The contracting economy could help quell the central bank's inflationary concerns and lead to a cut in its floor rate,

now at 5 percent. That would speed up the process of interest-rate realignment in the 11 euro states, which currently have disparate rates, with Italy's among the highest.

Growth in the quarter was held back by a 0.6 percent decline in industry's contribution to GDP, data from the statistics office Istat showed. Excluding energy, industry contributed 0.8 percent less than in the preceding quarter.

Also limiting expansion were exports, which dropped 1.6 percent from the fourth quarter of 1997, and household spending, which was unchanged in the month. Growth was further slowed by a 1.6 percent rise in imports of goods and services in the quarter.

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

EU's Chance to Take a Step Forward

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — In its early days, the postwar drive to create a united Europe used to be compared to a ceremonial procession in the small town of Echternach in Luxembourg, in which dancers traditionally take one step back for every two steps forward.

Not much seems to have changed. With the ink hardly dry on their pledge to create a single currency, the euro, starting next January — the biggest step toward closer economic and political integration in the past 40 years — the leaders of the European Union appear to be getting cold feet.

From a summit meeting in Cardiff, Wales, last week, they sent the seemingly contradictory message that EU decision-making has become too centralized, and that some decisions should be restored to national, regional or even local authorities. The idea will be taken further at a special summit meeting planned for Austria in October.

The ringleaders in this apparent attempt to roll back the process of integration were the two most powerful countries, Germany and France, aided and abetted by a Britain that has always bitterly resisted the idea of a "European superstate." But the outcome may not be the one they expect.

It could be that all we are seeing is a blatantly populist appeal to voters in Germany by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, to boost his doubtful chances in September's national elections, and in France by President Jacques Chirac, who is desperately seeking an issue to revive his shattered political fortunes.

If that is what the two men hope to achieve by their cheap and often inaccurate accusations that the European Commission is meddling unnecessarily in national affairs, then they are not exercising leadership but abdication from it.

But the review of decision-making could actually be favorable for European integration if it leads to a serious attempt to identify why the European institutions are so unpopular and to assess where the EU should be going as it introduces the euro and begins negotiations to expand the union for the first time into the territory of the former Warsaw Pact.

There is little doubt that in the coming years the euro and the new European Central Bank will come under heavy political attack as a single short-term interest rate depresses some areas and over-inflates others.

If all the leaders have done is to nourish resentment against the central institutions, they will have made it far more difficult for the institutions to withstand those attacks and uphold the single currency.

If on the other hand the leaders add rationality and flexibility to the institutions, together with greater democratic accountability, they will make it easier for the currency and the further integration it will inevitably bring to prevail.

There is no contradiction in transferring more sovereignty to Brussels and Frankfurt by creating the euro and returning control to member states over other issues that affect daily life in a more local way. When the U.S. Congress shifts power over policies like welfare reform to the states, it does not endanger the dollar.

But there is a paradox. Those who want to weaken the central institutions may in fact find that the institutions emerge strengthened from the process they have set in motion, especially as central decision-making will have to be streamlined, and thus made more efficient, to adapt to the intake of new members.

In the end, economic and political integration will only endure if it is built on the broad-based consent of the European people. If — admittedly a big if — the result of the forthcoming reappraisal is a set of institutions that are more democratic, more efficient and less prone to unnecessary regulation, then the EU will have taken not one step backward but several steps forward.

E-mail address:
thinkahead@washpost.com

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	DM	FF	Yen	DM	FF	Yen	DM	FF
Australian	1.04	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32
British	0.78	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.03
Canadian	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
French	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
German	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Italian	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Japanese	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Spanish	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Swiss	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
U.S.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36

Libor-Libor Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	1-year	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
1-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
3-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
6-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
9-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
1-year	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
18-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
24-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
36-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
48-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

Key Money Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	1-year	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
1-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
3-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
6-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
9-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
1-year	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
18-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
24-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
36-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
48-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

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Cornerstone To Acquire Realty Firm

Bloomberg News
NEW YORK — Cornerstone Properties Inc. said Monday it would acquire a privately held real estate services firm, a move that would give the company a foothold in the West Coast market. The transaction would be Cornerstone's second largest since the company, founded by Deutsche Bank AG in the early 1980s, went public in 1995. In October, it bought 10 office buildings from a Dutch pension fund for \$1.06 billion.

The acquisition will make Cornerstone, which specializes in acquiring downtown "trophy" buildings, a major investor in the West Coast real estate market. Cornerstone will also gain Wilson's development expertise, property management capabilities and extensive West Coast contacts.

Wilson's properties are mainly in and around San Francisco, with others in Southern California, Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Seattle.

Analysts said the purchase was a smart move for Cornerstone now that office prices in many markets were being bid up to levels not seen since the late 1980s.

"The merger of Wilson and Cornerstone will be a marriage of the highest quality office assets owned in the public sector with one of the highest quality private portfolios in the country," said Randall Hack, head of Nassau Capital LLC, a longtime Wilson investor.

Cornerstone will issue about \$635 million in shares and partnership units, pay \$355 million in cash and assume \$780 million of debt.

Cornerstone shares closed unchanged at 30 Deutsche marks (\$16.73) in Frankfurt trading.

William Wilson, who founded the company in 1978, will become chairman of Cornerstone.

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Alstom Shares Stay Flat in IPO

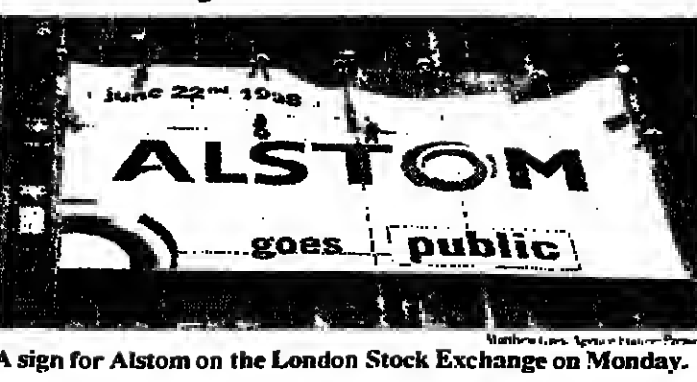
Reuters
PARIS — Alstom SA remained steady on the Paris Bourse on Monday although the launch of Europe's largest offer of shares in a privately owned company came amid a recent bout of jitters about the crisis in Asia.

The stock — 52 percent of Alstom's capital — was priced at 205 francs, in the middle of an expected range of 190 francs to 220 francs, and in Paris trading it stuck close to that level. It closed at 205 francs in Paris, \$20.50 (\$35.69) in London and was trading at \$34.0625 in New York.

The issue was three times oversubscribed, but French fund managers said demand was on the low side. The flotation valued the group at over 43 billion francs (\$7.16 billion), making it one of the top 30 stocks on the Paris exchange, Chairman Pierre Bilger said.

With over 10 million shares traded, Alstom was the most active stock Monday.

The stock failed to take off in a market worried that the Asia crisis would not dissipate soon. Asia, with about 20 percent of Alstom



A sign for Alstom on the London Stock Exchange on Monday.

sales, is its third-largest market behind Europe and the United States.

Created in 1989 as a 50-50 joint venture of Alcatel SA of France and General Electric Co. of Britain, Alstom is now a French company and has changed its name from GEC Alstom.

Alstom, which makes the high-speed TGV trains and the Eurostar train, derives most of its business from making components, systems and services for power generation and transportation.

Asked about the consequences of the Asia crisis, Jim Cronin, the Alstom deputy chief executive, said, "We're concerned, but not worried. We're in infrastructure projects of power and transport."

He said that Alstom has only 3 percent of sales in the five most affected countries, and said "places like China and India are almost unaffected."

Mr. Bilger said about 30 percent of the stock floated was placed with French investors, 30 percent with American and British buyers and 38 percent in the rest of Europe.

Philips Trims PolyGram's Sale Price

Compiled by the Staff from Reuters
AMSTERDAM — Philips Electronics NV said Monday it had agreed to lower the price Seagram Co. will pay for PolyGram NV to \$10.4 billion, a discount of \$200 million from last month's agreement, after second-quarter profit plunged at the recording company.

The agreement with the Montreal-based owner of Universal Studios values PolyGram at 11.5 guilders (\$57.04) a share, compared with the initial price of 117 guilders.

The news dragged down all three companies' shares, with PolyGram falling 0.2 guilder to 107.8, Philips sinking 3.9 guilders to 170.1 and Seagram losing 1.20 Canadian dollars to 60.20 dollars (\$40.93).

Philips, which is focusing on its electronics business and seeking higher returns, said it agreed to trim the price by about 2 percent because of "lower-than-expected financial results" in the second quarter.

That follows an 88 percent drop in first-quarter net income, which PolyGram blamed on a dearth of new pop hits and provisions for bad debt in Asia.

PolyGram refused to provide details on its second-quarter results before their official release in the third week of July. PolyGram has said its new music schedule is weighted toward the second half of this year.

PolyGram also announced that its chief executive officer and president, Alain Levy, had resigned, effective immediately.

PolyGram said it had been appointed chief executive for the period until PolyGram's takeover by Seagram had been completed.

PolyGram gave no reasons for the resignation. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
5750	5250	4300
5400	6000	4000
5050	5750	3700
4700	5500	3400
4350	5250	3100
4000	5000	2800
3650	4750	2500
3300	4500	2200
2950	4250	1900
2600	4000	1600
2250	3750	1300
1900	3500	1000
1550	3250	700
1200	3000	400
850	2750	100
500	2500	0

Source: Reuters

Very briefly:

- Stagecoach Holdings PLC will buy a 49 percent stake in Richard Branson's Virgin Rail Group Ltd. for £1.38 million (\$2.31 million), giving Scotland's biggest bus company a hand in Virgin's plan to regenerate the London-Scotland train line.
- VIAG AG announced that its chief executive, Georg Obermeier, had decided to step down and would be replaced on July 1 by Wilhelm Simson, currently head of VIAG's specialty chemicals unit, SKW Trostberg.
- Goldman, Sachs & Co. said its Whitehall Street Real Estate Limited Partnership IX was in talks to buy Cliveden PLC, a British hotel company that agreed to be bought last week for £42.8 million by a group including Microsoft Corp.'s chairman, Bill Gates.
- Russia said the International Monetary Fund was setting excessively stiff conditions to a multibillion-dollar package designed to underpin the ruble and stave off financial collapse.
- Fiat SpA forecast that its 1998 pretax profit would be "in line" with last year's earnings, which reached 4.2 trillion lire (\$2.38 billion). Separately, Fiat said that Cesare Romiti, its outgoing chairman, would be given a 105.6 billion lire special retirement bonus.

Blomberg, Reuters, AFP

Nasdaq Seeks Strategic Foreign Alliances

Reuters
LONDON — The U.S. electronic stock exchange Nasdaq said Monday that it was talking to other exchanges in Europe, Asia and the United States about possible strategic alliances to increase its market share.

But a Nasdaq spokesman declined to say which exchange was the most likely candidate for a link-up.

A British newspaper, Sunday Business, had reported that the German bourse and Nasdaq were negotiating to set up an electronic exchange to challenge London's

position as Europe's major financial center.

"We've been talking to exchanges in Europe, Asia and in the U.S.," a Nasdaq spokeswoman said, but declined to elaborate further.

Asked whether Nasdaq planned to compete more intensely with London, the spokeswoman said, "The only market we are truly competing against is the New York Stock Exchange."

The NYSE is the biggest exchange in the world, followed by Nasdaq and London.

But exchanges around the world have been upgrading their trading and settlement systems and reducing costs in the hope of luring away business from other markets.

Nasdaq is in the process of finalizing a merger with two rival U.S. exchanges, the American Stock Exchange and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange.

Deutsche Boerse AG, the company that operates the Frankfurt stock exchange, declined to comment on the weekend report of talks with Nasdaq.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Monday, June 22

Daily prices in local currencies.

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX index: 1443.26

Brussels BEL-20 index: 3288.43

Copenhagen CSE index: 720.57

Frankfurt DAX index: 5750.00

London FTSE 100 index: 5250.00

Madrid IBEX 35 index: 852.96

Oslo OBX index: 688.41

Paris CAC 40 index: 4300.00

Stockholm OMX index: 4012.84

Vienna ATX index: 1481.41

Zurich SPI index: 4718.12

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Madrid IBEX 35 index: 852

arkets Punish the Yen

Japanese authorities have...
that the Financial Supervisory...
new financial watchdog...
people that started up Monday...
prove bank inspections. But...
disappointed when the agency...
Masaharu Hino, a former...
said that the agency had not...
immediately start inspections...
top 19 banks, he said, "I will...
decide that later."

U.S. Calls for Open Markets

The U.S. trade representative...
Jane Barshesky, said Monday...
can had to deregulate and open...
countries, especially to other...
Agency to other...
Japan must be the engine...
for Asia," she said after talks...
Japanese minister of international...
and industry, Mitsuhiro...
Ms. Barshesky, speaking to...
meeting of trade ministers of...
Pacific Economic Cooperation...
said that in addition to fiscal...
banking problems, Japan...
regulate and open its economy...
The forum is a "test of...
regulate and open its economy...
way, particularly to the...
Asian region," she said.

on Their Security

analyze the results from a...
transactions...
Mr. Kacher said his team...
as much time looking for...
identifying the source...
possible remedy involves...
transaction in digital...
random...
random...

possible solution...
Mastercard officials...
in the latest...
card software...
operations...
difficult...
consumption...
goal...
eliminate...
approval...
transaction. By...
costs for...
transaction are...
card...
cost...
long...
and a...
each...
and...



RHÔNE-POULENC UNITING SCIENCES FOR LIFE

A SINGLE DISCOVERY IS KEEPING
CROPS HEALTHY AND DOGS HAPPY.

The links between different forms of life are remarkable. For example, a new Rhône-Poulenc discovery to protect crops against insects is proving to be exceptionally effective in protecting animals against fleas and ticks. That's one powerful example of why we believe in linking our efforts in human, animal and plant health care. Ultimately, breakthroughs made in plant and animal science by Rhône-Poulenc Agro and Rhône-Poulenc Animal Nutrition and by Merial* may even lead to advances in human health by Rhône-Poulenc Rorer and Pasteur Mérieux Connaught. Uniting the life sciences makes it possible to develop new products to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

*50/50 joint venture with Merck & Co., Inc.

<http://www.rhone-poulenc.com>



By Karine Granier-Deferre
International Herald Tribune

direct investment, which amounted to \$2.4 billion in 1997.

Among the French entrepreneurs is Christian Devismes, who set up his dry-cleaning store, Carte Blanche, three years ago with a partner. A sign featuring an Eiffel Tower is the only evidence of the enterprise, which is housed in the former cafeteria of an armaments factory that has closed. But the "Pressing Française," as it has become known here, is a success.

"The first month was difficult, with only about 100 clients, but after six months, Carte Blanche was using 100 percent of its capacity," Mr. Devismes said.

"I didn't think we would make it that fast. I thought we would pay off in three years, but it took only one year," Mr. Devismes said, adding that his clientele widened to include the middle class as well as the wealthy after Kazakhs realized that his prices were affordable.

"We used to clean only luxurious clothes like Christian Dior and Yves Saint Laurent," he said. "But now we see everyday clothes."

Paris — 290 tenge (\$3.80) for trousers and 240 tenge for a jacket. But running a dry cleaner in Almaty is more profitable than in France because wages are lower, said Mr. Devismes, who has seven employees.

Carte Blanche became known mostly by word of mouth. "The

'The image of France is very good here' in Kazakhstan.

image of France is very good here," he said. "Kazakhs would rather buy a product that is twice as expensive as long as it is French."

Mr. Devismes, who is going to open a second store in a more commercial area, also imports and exports dry-cleaning material and sells turnkey dry-cleaners in the provinces and in Kuyumutan and Ushakotan.

Now, he returns to France only for brief visits. "Of course, I miss French bread and cheese," he says, but it's better to be first in Kazakhstan than last in France."

This is the same reason that Orlando Da Silva came to Almaty.

where he and three partners opened Boucherie Kazakhstan, a butcher shop, in November.

"There was no butcher shop here, no hygiene," Mr. Da Silva said. "Meat is sold on the open market. Here the meat is cut properly and esthetically, and is sold in refrigerated windows, and salespeople wear clean white clothes. People are happy to find meat that looks like meat."

Although horsemeat is the basis for many Kazakh traditional dishes, like smoked horsemeat sausage, which can be served sliced with cold oodles, or sausage made of horse intestines, other meat is used like beef — either mixed in a potato stew or served with rice and dried fruits in a dish called *plov*.

Mr. Da Silva sells a wide variety of meat — including beef, pork, lamb and tripe — to a diverse, local and foreign, clientele. He also supplies a hotel and a few restaurants, both Italian and Turkish. People who cannot afford meat come to his store to buy packs of leftovers made of bones, fat and gristle, which are used in soup and which cost 30 tenge a

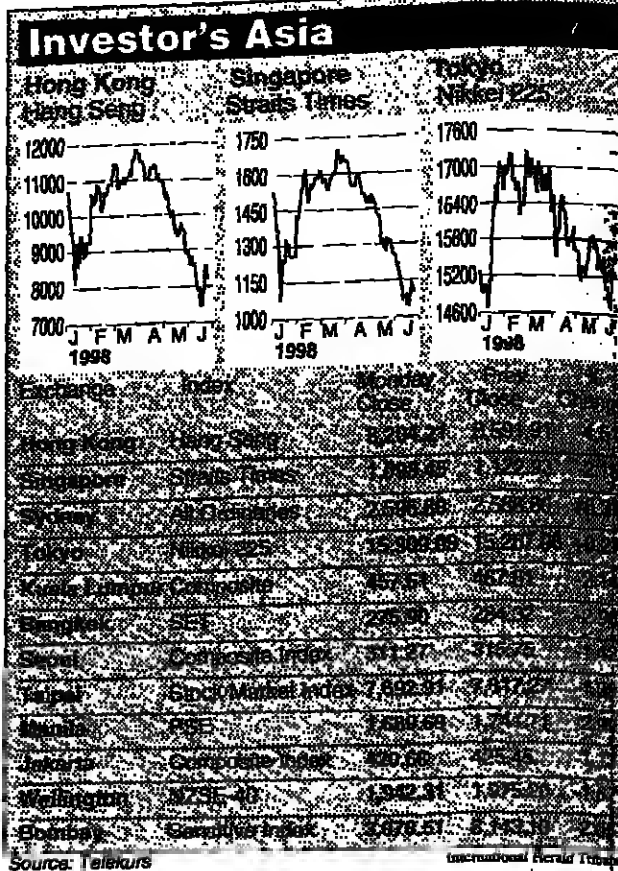
The business's results have out-

Mr. Da Silva imported his equipment from France — even the cash register, which he had to replace because it did not conform to standards here. Although he was not fined, an inspector came a few times to help himself to free packs of meat.

Another growing market is for perfumes, cosmetics and pret-a-porter clothes, said Stephanie Carle, who works for Assistance au Commerce International, a company that helps develop industrial and commercial cooperation between France and Central Asia.

Ms. Carle has worked with Frantsuzski Dom, or French House, a Kazakh boutique in the center of Almaty that sells brands like Ted Lapidus, Christian Dior, Givenchy and Lancome, to familiarize salespeople with French merchandising.

"French products have a great reputation because they are associated with expensive and refined goods," said Ms. Carle.



● **Avon Products Inc.**, the U.S. direct-selling cosmetics company, plans to open a chain of retail shops in Guangzhou, southern China, to salvage its business after a government ban on door-to-door sales in April, the official Xinhua press agency reported. Avon won permission from China this month to resume sales only through retail stores. Meanwhile, **Amway Asia Pacific Ltd.** said it had submitted a plan for consideration under Beijing's new guidelines and was optimistic it would be able to resume direct selling in China.

• **Marks & Spencer PLC's** entry into the Australian retail market will be delayed indefinitely "because of the weakening of the Australian dollar and unstable economic conditions affecting Asian economies," said **Just Jeans Group Ltd.**, an Australian clothing retailer appointed in November to operate Marks & Spencer franchises throughout Australia.

- South Korea said it would sell as much as a third of the state-run Korea Telecom to foreign investors in July or August to raise up to \$2.4 billion to help finance its economic recovery.
- China plans to cut cotton imports this year to fewer than 1 million metric tons, less than half the amount imported last year.

• **Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd.**'s shareholders approved a proposed spin-off of the Australian-based company's European assets and the purchase of two new bottling groups.

assets and the purchase of two new bonding groups.

TOKYO—Casio Computer Co. said Monday it expected losses of about 2 billion yen (\$14.6 million) from an embezzlement scheme involving an employee.

Casio discovered last month that a deputy head of the funding division of its Tokyo head office conspired with people outside the company to channel \$30 million that Casio had deposited in a New York bank for third-party recipients, said Yoshiaki Suzuki, Casio's managing director. Casio had so far recovered \$15 million, he said. Casio shares fell 6 sen, to 1,264.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KUALA LUMPUR — Opposition parties on Monday called on the government to name individuals who had received huge government subsidies and to make public the names of major shareholders of all companies listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

Amid increasing allegations of cronyism and nepotism against the government, Syed Husin Ali, president of the Parti Rakyat

Malaysia, called on Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad to "furnish additional lists of names of all individuals who managed to get bank loans exceeding \$50 million ringgit" (\$13 million).

Mr. Syed Husin also said the names of banks that had given loans above 50 million ringgit should be made public. Names of individuals and companies whose loans are non-performing and the names of the sources of their loans should also be released, he added.

Compiled by Our Staff From December

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JAKARTA — Lawrence Summers, the U.S. deputy Treasury secretary, told President B. J. Habibie on Monday that the United States would continue to back a \$43 billion international bailout of Indonesia, but warned that the aid would be cut off if the Indonesian government did not take steps to

Mr. Summers, whose visit comes during the IMF-brokered bailout package, said, "President Habibie and the Indonesian economic officials we met recognized that it was going to be the

Indonesia, meanwhile, hopes to sign a letter of intent on the next tranche of In-

Aid disbursements to Indonesia have been suspended since early May because of political turmoil and violence that came in the ouster of former President Suharto and Habibie's predecessor. (Bloomberg)

Reuters

BEIJING — General Motors Corp. agreed Monday to make pickup trucks and sport-utility vehicles in a joint venture with China.

Investment in the project with state-owned FAW-Jinbei Automotive Co. in the northern city of Shenyang had been raised to \$230 million from \$132 million, the company said.

Production is to start in 2000, and in the first year of operation 4,000 vehicles are to roll off assembly lines.

The 50-50 joint venture, Jinbei GM Automotive Co., would make the Chevrolet Blazer four-door sport-utility vehicle and the Chevrolet S-10 crew cab pickup, the company said.

GM already has invested in a \$1.57 billion joint venture in Shanghai to produce Buick cars; the first vehicle is expected to roll out in December.

[illegible]

150 من الاصل

WORLD CUP

Wild Night in Tehran As Iranians Celebrate

With Praise for Allah and the Team, Freed Spirits Rejoice, Ignoring Police

By Elaine Sciolino
New York Times Service

TEHRAN — The young woman flung off her headscarf and hung out the window of the blue Volkswagen, her long red hair flying wild in the wind.

Just behind was a police car with four officers, cheering and waving at the crowd. Iran had beaten the United States in the World Cup in France, and in Tehran it was a moment for mad celebration, not Islamic punishment.

In a communal celebration that froze traffic, freed spirits and cut across lines of class and gender, Iranians poured into the streets the moment the game ended at 10:30 A.M. Monday.

Armed thousands of fans gathered in Vanak Square in central Tehran, a dozen men danced together, strapping the names of Iran's soccer stars into a rhythmic chant.

A man and a woman sat halfway out of their car windows and swayed to the American rock music that blared from their car. Another man climbed up a lamppost as the crowd cheered and uniformed and plainclothes police officers and army troops looked on.

"Good picture," one bewildered officer carrying a walkie-talkie said.

Old men strolled the streets in nightshirts. Some women waved flares and pounded on cars, ordering drivers to blink their horns and cheer.

Young people whistled and whooped, honked and hollered to proclaim the victory over their political nemesis. Flares were waved, whistles blown, candies distributed, fireworks lighted.

The only chant that could be heard about the United States was not "Marghar Amirka" — "Death to America!" — but "Iran hoorah, Amirka sourakh!"

"Iran hurrah, America a hole," referring to the American team's weak defense that led to Iran's 2-1 victory.

In the southern part of Tehran, a woman handed out sweets to strangers for what she called a dual celebration.

"My son Ahmed promised me if Iran wins, he's going to marry the girl I want," said the woman, who was riding on the back of her son's motorbike, her black chador held together between her teeth.

"So Iran wins, I win and my son wins most of all."

For some fans, the victory was a clear sign of divine intervention — and a benign United States. "We prayed hard before the game," said Ahmed Felegari, 23, a construction worker from the western Iranian city of Khorramshahr. "We were counting on God first — and the players second."

"America was not the Great Satan tonight. Tonight, we were friends."

One Iranian woman stopped and kissed an American visitor, assuring her that the victory was nothing personal; another invited the visitor to her home for a meal.

President Mohammed Khatami sent a message of congratulations to the Iranian team.

But Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, used Iran's victory to criticize the United States.

"Tonight again the strong and arrogant opponents felt the bitter taste of defeat at your hands," he told the team. "Be happy that you have made the

Iranian nation happy."

The impromptu celebration was reminiscent of — though much smaller than — the street celebrations marking Iran's draw with Australia late last year, which qualified Iran for the World Cup finals for the first time in 20 years.

This time, Iranian authorities took precautions to prevent any celebrations — or mourning — from turning violent. Restaurants in Tehran were forced to close at 9 on Sunday night. Sports centers were ordered to cancel plans to show the game on giant outdoor screens, and army troops and plainclothes policemen were stationed at roadblocks throughout the city.

Throughout this soccer-crazed country, Iranians were riveted to their television screens from the starting kickoff. To ensure that the coverage was Islamically correct, the broadcast began seven seconds late, so that Iranian viewers would not be subjected to the sight of fans in summer dress who might be drinking alcoholic beverages.

In the first half, after three American shots had hit the goal post, some fans invoked God's name.

"God is definitely with us tonight," said Bobak Pasha, a 30-year-old businessman, watching with his family.

"Oh, God! Oh, my God!"

A few miles north, at another family gathering, Sahand Tavakoli, 17, had a similar reaction. "Thank God. He is with us," he said, jumping out of his chair.

WHEN Hamid Reza Estili — known as the James Bond of Iran — scored the first goal, Iranians throughout Tehran were thunderstruck. For one glorious moment, they had overtaken the United States on at least one playing field.

"It is a beautiful goal! What a beautiful goal!" said Hamid Salimi, a taxi driver watching the game in a poor neighborhood in southern Tehran. But then, in good-sport fashion, he added, "The Americans are doing their best."

Although Iranian officials greeted congratulatory words about Iran this week by President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright with reserve, many Iranian citizens were delighted in the magic moment after Iran scored.

"I jumped to the ceiling and rammed my fist into the ceiling," said Nikol Nasr, an architect. "My heart's beating, beating, beating. Me and my dad and mom — three beating hearts. My father started to cry. My mom, too. It can be a new beautiful start with America. We would like to do that. We would love to, actually."

Indeed, most of Iran's players, and the fans of their generation, are too young to remember much about the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's sermons about the "crimes of America," the anti-American street chants during the 1979 revolution and the 444-day seizure of the American Embassy in central Tehran.

In recent weeks, as Iran girded itself for this match, Iran's leaders insisted that it was only a game, not a symbolic playing out of a political agenda.

In honoring an Iranian team that had climbed Mount Everest, President Khatami said of the upcoming match: "For us, victory or failure is normal. The real victory is that the sportsmen do their best."



An Iranian and an American sharing a laugh during the match in Lyon.

SPORT: A Night to Remember for Iran

Continued from Page 1

launched by several thousand Iranian expatriates who smuggled T-shirts and banners into Gerland Stadium showing the pictures of two leaders of a Paris-based opposition group called the National Council of Resistance.

Still, the Iranian players said they knew the ordinary people of Iran would be exultant.

"It was the greatest game we ever played," said Khodadad Azizi, a forward. "The whole nation was waiting for this game and expecting us to win."

Disidents tried to capitalize on the forum by promoting their resistance group. The French police rushed into the stands several times to confiscate banners and pictures celebrating the two leaders of the National Council of Resistance, but new banners and pictures kept popping up.

In the game's most surreal moment, the protesters waved their T-shirts and banners at halftime as the public address system played the "Macarena." About 75 French policemen in riot gear marched to one side of the field 10 minutes before the game concluded, but the Iranian fans left peacefully and ecstatically.

While Iran is expected to have its hopes of advancing to the second round dashed on Thursday when it faces powerful Germany, at least it can dream. The United States, which has lost both its matches and has scored but one goal in the two games, has no hope.

Alan Rothenberg, president of the U.S. Soccer Federation, called Sunday night's defeat a "hitter disappointment."

If the United States were a serious soccer country, Steve Sampson might have lost his job on Sunday night, as coaches from Saudi Arabia and South Korea did in recent days. But Rothenberg said Sampson would coach the team against Yugoslavia.

On Sunday night, the Americans hit the goalpost twice and the crossbar once and outshot Iran, 27-15, but could not score until McBride's header for a goal in the 88th minute.

In the 40th minute, Iran's Hamid Estili headed a ball over the head of the American goalkeeper, Kasey Keller, to give his team a 1-0 lead. As the crowd of 35,500, made up largely of Iranian fans, erupted, Estili kissed the ground in celebration.

In the 83rd minute, Mehdi Mahdavi sprinted past the disheveled American defense and blasted another goal past Keller.

Sampson faced stern questions about why he kept Eric Wynalda, the all-time leading U.S. scorer on the bench, but he said, "I wouldn't change a thing."

Neither would Jalal Talebi, the Iranian coach who has lived for 17 years in Palo Alto, California, and who took his current job only four weeks ago.

"This is a big victory," he said. "I don't think the people were celebrating because we played against the United States. They were happy because this is the first time we won a game in the World Cup."

Before the game, fans of both teams shook hands and stood together for pictures, draped in each other's flags, both in Lyon's sunbaked plazas and outside Gerland Stadium. Some fans even wore red, white and blue hats celebrating the United States and red, green and white jerseys celebrating Iran.

"I never thought I'd be wearing an Iranian flag in my cap," said David Mebane, 22, an accountant from Austin, Texas, as he posed with Iranian fans. "This has changed my attitude toward the people of Iran."

Henry Jalali, a native of Iran who has lived for 25 years in San Francisco, where he works as a civil engineer, said any victory would be for the Iranian people, not the Islamic regime.

"The Islamic regime has deprived Iranians of every moment of joy and happiness," Jalali said. "This shows we're still alive, we are humans. My children in the past were humiliated to say they were Iranian. Now they are proud. This happiness has been brought by the soccer team."

Security was heavy near the stadium. French police confiscated flags of the Iranian opposition, which showed a lion and a sun in the white field of the tricolor instead of the religious symbol of Allah. The National Council of Resistance called the confiscations "insulting" and criticized governments of both Iran and the United States of attempting to use the game for political purposes.

"Maybe I saw, but I did not care," said Talebi, the Iranian coach. "I was not looking at the protesters; I was looking at my team. It is not good to ask a sportsman a political question."

An Evening of Emotion, An Example for World

By Rob Hughes
International Herald Tribune

LYON — In years to come, when the children of the next generation ask their parents what happened the night when the United States met Iran after 20 years of hatred, let them be told that football was the winner.

The Americans may forever call this game soccer, but in the ancient scripture it is football, just as to thousands of the Iranians in exile from their own country.

VANTAGE POINT

try's Islamic regime, the second Monday of the World Cup was both a celebration of sport and a demonstration of anger. The result was a match, a night of inflamed and exposed emotions, and ultimately an example of sportsmanship that, if only for an hour or so, transcended the divisions that politicians and zealots use to divide people.

In 30 years of traveling the world, I have seldom been so moved by the power of a simple game to hold together a vast audience — in the Lyon stadium and in front of more than a billion television sets across the globe. The athletes were an act in themselves: Eleven white clad American players with pride bursting from them, 11 Iranians all in red knowing that the tens of thousands inside the Stade Gerland represented huge numbers of their countrymen and women forced to live abroad by the acts of an Islamic revolution 20 years ago.

In Lyon, founded 2,000 years ago, this was a first in the history of a sport that has no barriers of color, creed or religion. That Iran won, 2-1, might have been an act of Allah, but it's a strange God who makes Iran's goal frame such a magnet to American headers and shots. Four times the American forwards struck for goal and struck only the bar or the posts.

Yet for their quality, their cunning on the ground, their much longer addiction to the passing skills of the game, Iran deserved to triumph. More important, America's players deserved to share the symbolic memories of this match, for their ability to take defeat, to take elimination from the tournament, and to return to the field after the game to acknowledge that Iran's sportsmen fully justified the sometimes irrational hope we pin on meo playing games.

Whether the banners were innocent reflections of Iranian belonging, or bore slogans against the Khatami government, the cops confiscated them all. What they couldn't do — and did not do — was take the shirts off the backs of some thousands of political protesters whose white cloth was adorned by photographs of opposition leaders, and of Iranians executed by the mullahs.

So what? The goal of the match, a sweeping, splendid cross from the right, a soaring, instinctive header by Hamid Estili, was worth the victory alone. In Tehran, I gather, President Mohammed Khatami is claiming the beauty of that goal, the points scored off America, as some kind of thanksgiving for the revolution.

There may, or may not be, people around the president who will tell him the truth of what took place in Lyon. It was that the Iranian Resistance fighters, a majority of the audience, defeated attempts by the gendarmes to strip them of identity. Outside the barriers, the police deprived most Iranians of their coveted flags.

Whether the banners were innocent reflections of Iranian belonging, or bore slogans against the Khatami government, the cops confiscated them all. What they couldn't do — and did not do — was take the shirts off the backs of some thousands of political protesters whose white cloth was adorned by photographs of opposition leaders, and of Iranians executed by the mullahs.

But even the peaceful protest. It was the game, and the sharing that sport invites. "Down with Khatami!" read one banner. "Sophie, the love of my life!" read another.

They were side by side. The American and the Iranian. And when the U.S. supporters began their "Mexican wave" even I, an Englishman who views this as a mindless distraction, swayed with them. Why, because around the sport was a bowl of 45,000 people united in sport. This has to be better than our divisions.

Lower down the scale of importance was a lesson on the night that America, a rookie nation of the world's most popular game, has quite a way to go on the field.

As Iran's resistance members maintained their fervor and their noise. The public address system sought to drown the chorus of Iranian voices. They played American pop culture. "It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it."

Precisely.

Rob Hughes is Sports Correspondent of The Times of London.

Goalkeeper Ahmadreza Abedzadeh, cheering Iran's first goal.

Goalkeeper Ahmadreza Abedzadeh, cheering Iran's first goal.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"THE RULE IS: IF MARGARET SPOOLS YUK, IT'S A BUG WORTH KEEPING!"

PEANUTS



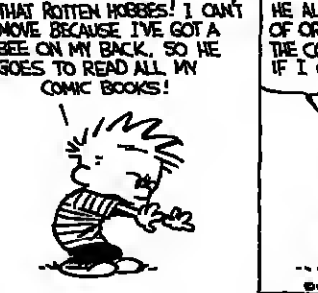
CALVIN AND HOBBES



WIZARD OF ID



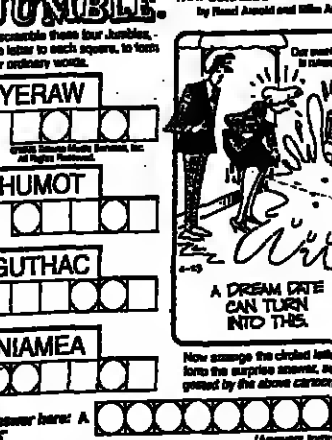
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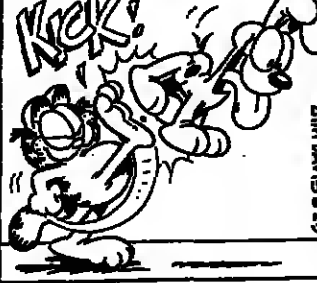
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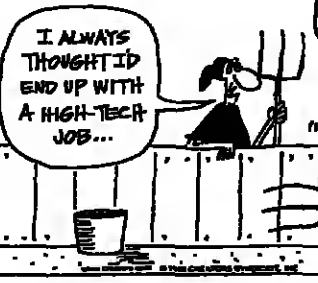
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ART BUCHWALD

When Mum's the Order

WASHINGTON—O.K., so Ken Starr leaked evidence to reporters, not to gain an advantage in his investigation, but, he said, "set the record straight." Besides, say Starr's defenders, the White House is also leaking to the press, so he has to fight fire with fire.

The real truth is there is so much leaking going on in Washington right now that reporters are wearing life jackets when they go to work. How does a story get leaked to the press when there is a "mum's the word" order from the judge?

This is how it is done. Most leaks are by phone, though some are tossed over the office transom at night or sent by fax to a media source's home. The phone rings in a columnist's office. "I can't tell you who I am, and if you say I told you anything I'll deny I ever said it," but Monica Lewinsky had a serious crush on Jim Carville and met the president to get to meet him.

"Holy Linda Tripp. This is dynamite."

"I'm only telling you this to set the record straight."

A second method of leaking is to send the leaker to a restaurant like the Palm, where all the media big shots hang out. The White House leaker will sit at the table next to someone like Sam Donaldson and say in a loud voice, "We have a list of all the books Ken Starr bought at Barnes & Noble, and when we give it to the grand jury they'll bar him from every library in America."

Sam, of course, takes the bait and immediately calls Cookie Roberts on her private line.

The most high-level form of leaking takes place when someone from the special prosecutor's office or the Justice Department leaves a microfilm of the grand jury testimony under Lincoln's big toe at the Lincoln Memorial. The leaker notifies the leakee when to pick it up.

The beauty of leaking in Washington is that no one has to check out the facts. All of the leaks come from either a "reliable source" in Starr's office or a Chinese lobbyist in Arkansas who "refused to take our calls."

Gearing Up for Opera in Munich

New York Times Service

MUNICH — Names don't always tell the story. The Munich Opera Festival, which begins Friday and runs through July 31, also includes ballet, theater and concerts. There will be 15 operas, seven ballets, eight evening song recitals and an avant-garde program called Festival Plus.

A production of Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde," led by Zubin Mehta, the new musical director of the Bavarian State Opera, opens on June 30. Song recitals feature Cecilia Bartoli, Montserrat Caballé and Margaret Price; the Bavarian State Ballet program includes two premieres, Festival Plus includes the Munich premiere of Eugene O'Neill's "Hairy Ape." For information, call (49-89) 2185-1024.

On the Road Again, With Garrison Keillor

By Marc Fisher
Washington Post Service

AUSTIN, Texas — It has been nearly a quarter-century since Garrison Keillor began to report the oews from Lake Wobegon, play music you can't hear on the radio and recall for listeners the stories of the hometown they remember fondly, yet have never set foot in.

Every summer Keillor takes his public radio variety show to college auditoriums and faceless civic centers and grand old theaters in small towns and big cities, to audiences of graying hippies and proper, silver couples, graduate students and young professionals.

The tall, reluctant man whose tales have changed the way many parents tell their kids stories doesn't join his cast and crew until less than 24 hours before show time. Keillor stays home, deep in composition, the ingredients of each week's monologue shifting in his mind as the hours slip toward Saturday at 5, the moment the satellite sends "A Prairie Home Companion" to 433 stations and 2.5 million listeners.

In a way unique to radio, "A Prairie Home Companion" is the reflection of a single imagination. The show is Keillor, a single, hesitant voice that ranges from a thin upper register to a baritone rumble. But in another way, it is a theatrical extravaganza. It takes 17 people, a semi full of crates, five Oriental rugs, a cardboard box full of gravel and coconut shells, and assorted bands, writers, producers and stagehands to put the show on the air each week.

Keillor, silenced "Prairie Home" in 1987, closed up shop and moved to Copenhagen to live with wife number two, a Dane he had met when she was a high school exchange student in his home town of Anoka, Minnesota. Two years later, Keillor was back on the air. Now, happy with wife number three and an infant daughter, he talks about continuing well into the new century, but there is more than a little reluctance in his voice.

If in the mid-1980s the show was attracting an audience of nearly 5 million listeners and Keillor was on the cover of Time, hailed as some kind of new American bard, these days the show and its father are content to be what they are—a live oasis in the arid, canned soundscape of radio, a slow, gentle, acoustic show in an era of frenzied, electric entertainment spectacles.

"There's no buzz about the show whatsoever," Keillor said, "and that's actually much better for the audience and, God knows, for me. It's not a steppingstone to anything."

"A Prairie Home Companion" is one of public radio's biggest moneymakers, lagging behind only "Car Talk" and "Marketplace" in its ability to wrangle contributions from listeners. It is a ratings powerhouse, the flagship of an American subculture, far outdrawing Keith Olbermann's nightly scandal wrap-up on MSNBC, sometimes matching the audience of Fox's Saturday baseball Game of the Week.

It has become a neighborhood of the air, an answer to an American desire to fence off a small portion of the cultural landscape as a refuge from the coarseness, cynicism and irony that are postmodern life. Keillor's America is one of jokes you can tell your kids, and camp songs and sing-alongs and "Talent From Towns Under 2,000," of fiddlers, polka dancers, rockabilly bands, jazz trios and classical cellists, poets and playwrights, accordionists and humorists, and radio men such as the sturdy storyteller Studs Terkel and the dazzling and dependable sound-effects guy Tom Keith.

The "Prairie Home" staff is fiercely protective of Keillor, eager to explain to outsiders why he seems distant, grumpy, even rude.

"You see, he's always writing in his head, so anytime you're talking to Garrison, you're interrupting his writing," says Katy Reckdahl, the show's marketing director.

At the Marriott here, the actor Tim Russell, Keith, the band leader Rich Dworsky, the producer



Garrison Keillor rehearsing at the University of Texas.

Christine Tschida and assorted others gather for their first look at the sketches, ad parodies and other bits Keillor has written on the plane in.

Quickly, the actors try out the bits, including "Lives of the Cowboys," sketch in which a renegade is punished by being locked in the outhouse with the works of Thomas Pynchon, an ad for ketchup in which a husband and wife rediscover love and the simple life by forsaking seven kinds of salsa and coming home to "ketchup on a piece of white bread," and an ad for Beoparebop Rhubarb Pie in which Keith will bark like a dog, screech like a grackle, squeak like a bat, yell like a mob of teenagers and rumble like a pack of Harley-Davidsons.

An hour and a half later they break up. "I might write something new," Keillor says as they file out.

On Saturday, Keillor writes his monologue. "The News From Lake Wobegon," a staple of the show's second hour, runs 15 to 25 minutes and is delivered without script, just Keillor on a stool, facing

the audience, occasionally closing his eyes to summon the story. He looks as if he is spinning the tale as he speaks, but in fact he has written the story out at least twice, sometimes more. It is the hardest part of the show, and the most important.

"With this show," Keillor says, "you're writing in these several different veins—a song lyric, some commercials, each with its own distinct form, and then you get this little odd, off-balance prelude, and then there's the News From Lake Wobegon. It's all you can do to get the stuff to come out decent, just to try not to be famous and dorky. And try to make the News From Lake Wobegon as faithful as possible to a town even though you're sitting in a Marriott in Austin, Texas."

Cynical and clueless as radio is in its advanced state of corporate rot, it is still the sound track of American striving, and even a hand that has trouble finding a place on commercial radio worships the possibilities of the medium.

Keillor, too, remains in love with radio. Though he dismisses com-

mercial radio as having "almost completely abdicated any responsibility for the public interest," he still cherishes memories of great radio humorists including Bob and Ray, who created sketches and soap operas and ad parodies five days a week for more than 40 years.

The most direct inspiration for "Prairie Home Companion" came from his March 1974 visit to the Grand Ole Opry, which he was writing about for The New Yorker. "It struck me as noble and thrilling that people would do this, and do it live. It seemed like something that a person could do." The first broadcast of "Prairie Home" on Minnesota Public Radio came just four months later.

This show, at the Bass Performing Arts Center at the University of Texas, sold out its 3,000 seats almost instantly—typical for a Keillor performance. Seats go for as much as \$50, with Minnesota Public Radio claiming 60 percent of the take and the local station getting the rest.

On four occasions, Keillor has stepped away from the show, intent on devoting himself entirely to writing. "The time I really quit, it was '87, I had what just about every writer would claim that he wanted. When I walked away, I had money to support myself, all the time in the world, I was living in Copenhagen, utter privacy. And yet you find yourself in that ideal situation and after a few months, you start to panic. Where's the great stuff you were going to write under those conditions? You learn things about yourself you were hoping not to find out. You overestimate your own capabilities, and I certainly did, like just about every other person ever ignited by an ambition to be a writer and write the Great American Novel."

"I'm not going to." And so he came back. And he will stay, at least for the foreseeable future. He has spent the bulk of his adult life on the radio, and now seems comfortable being what he is, a distinctive American voice, a writer whose best medium is radio.

PEOPLE

FELLOW travelers? Charlie Chaplin, George Bernard Shaw and Sean O'Casey were among the figures George Orwell denounced to the British government as Communist sympathizers in the late 1940s, newspaper reports said Monday. The British learned in 1996 that the author of "1984," a virulent attack on totalitarianism and Stalinism in particular, was a government informer. But the names of those he denounced were kept secret. A new edition of Orwell's complete works, to be published next week, will partly lift the veil on the episode by naming those now dead, the Daily Telegraph reported. Orwell compiled the list of 130 "crypto-Communists" for an anti-Communist propaganda unit of the Foreign Office. Also included were the poets C. Day Lewis and Stephen Spender and the Labour Party members Richard Crossman (later a minister) and Tom Driberg. Orwell said Shaw was not to be trusted because he was "reliably pro-Russian on all major issues."

Former President P.W. Botha, 82, of South Africa thrust aside his legal problems with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Monday to marry Barbara Robertson, a 57-year-old legal secretary, at his home in Cape Province.

The sale at auction of the contents of the Cote d'Azur home of the American photographer Henry Clarke raised \$2.7 million for the Pasteur Institute in Paris. The furniture and works of art, which Clarke amassed before his death in 1996,

sparked frenzied bidding and raised twice the amount expected. Christie's auction house said.

A member of the British Parliament tracked down a cousin who survived the Holocaust after watching Steven Spielberg's film "Schindler's List." Gerald Kaufman, a senior member of the Labour Party, noticed the name Murray Pantirer on a list at the end of the film as one of those who had been saved by Schindler from the Nazis during World War II.

A Fondness for the Shredder?

Agence France-Presse

LONDON — Princess Margaret, the queen's sister, has thrown away sacks of personal papers and correspondence belonging to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and historians fear that valuable material has been destroyed. The Sunday Times reported.

"It's a great pity from the historical point of view," said Ben Pimlott, who has written a biography of Queen Elizabeth II. A lady-in-waiting to the Queen Mother confirmed that some clearing out had taken place. Despite assurances from Buckingham Palace that no material of importance had been thrown away, many historians are convinced that Margaret wanted to get rid of sensitive documents.

Pantirer was the maiden name of Kaufman's mother. He tracked Murray Pantirer, now 73, to New Jersey after finding that his and Pantirer's grandfathers were brothers.

The singer Bobby Brown was arrested in Los Angeles on Sunday for investigation of misdemeanor sexual battery. Brown, the husband of the singer Whitney Houston, was at the Beverly Hills Hotel when he was placed under citizen's arrest, Lieutenant Joe Lombardi said. He was scheduled to appear in court on July 17. "I wouldn't hurt nobody. I wouldn't touch nobody," Brown said after being released from jail. Details of the charges were not available.

The ship wasn't the only thing that went down during the filming of James Cameron's "Titanic." Much of Hollywood's vintage clothing stock from the early 1900s met a watery end, too. Kate Winslett reportedly ran through 28 ancient dresses in one scene alone. That's causing problems for the producers of the NBC miniseries "A Will of Their Own," which also needed period dresses for its chronicle of the changing roles of women over the last 100 years. "Titanic" not only got all the wardrobe in town from that period, but they destroyed much of it in the water scenes. Mark Wolper, executive producer of the miniseries, told TV Guide. "We had to scramble to make 30 to 40 costumes in just a few weeks, some of them costing \$20,000."



HONORED — Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, receiving an honorary degree in commencement exercises at Northeastern University in Boston.



(take in a rock show)

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The World's Daily Newspaper

Unemployment Jumps to Record in South Korea

Rate Hits 7% as Government Increases Pressure on Insolvent Companies to End Operations

SEOUL — South Korea's unemployment rate jumped to a record 7 percent last month, as the government increased pressure on insolvent companies to end operations.

The unemployment rate rose from 6.5 percent in May to 7 percent in June, according to the Labor Ministry. The increase was attributed to the government's push for companies to shut down operations if they were insolvent.

The government said it would continue to monitor the situation and take further action if necessary. It also announced that it would provide financial support to companies that were struggling to stay afloat.

Soccer Violence Casts a Cloud Over Germany

By Alice C. ...

BERLIN — For many years, soccer has been a source of pride and passion for Germans. But in recent years, it has also become a source of violence and controversy.

The violence has led to the cancellation of several matches and the arrest of many fans. The government has taken steps to prevent further incidents, but the problem remains.

The violence has also led to a decline in the popularity of soccer in Germany. Many fans have turned to other sports, and the government has lost interest in the sport.

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